

**CONCEPT OF GOD & PROPHET  
MUHAMMAD(S.A.W) PROPHESED IN WORLDS  
DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS SCRIPTURES**

**BY**

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

### **QUEST FOR PEACE**

“War for Peace” has become the unjust slogan of many tyrants and oppressors on this earth. True Peace seems to elude humankind.

Entertainment and Corporate Media does not provide the peace it proclaims. It has in reality made the people more fearful, lustful, violent and greedy. Escapism from faith in God, humane values and good deeds is their mirage.

Islam means “Peace” – internal and external. It is essential, therefore, to know, practise and propagate Islam to attain peace in this life and the hereafter.

### **MEDIA AND ISLAM**

Islam, today, is the most misunderstood religion. It bears the brunt of misconceptions and hate propaganda.

The powerful mass media, aligned to deceitful political and corporate interests, spreads these misconceptions virulently... worldwide.

While portraying Islam, integrity and reliability are bypassed by the media with professional charm and finesse.

Wise and apt Islamic viewpoints are seldom covered in the mainstream media, whereas aberrations by a few misled Muslims are highlighted.

Muslims hardly have any hold or influence on major media, especially TV. They instead, exhibit an apologetic attitude and an inferiority complex

### **.REACH OF THE TV MEDIA**

Today, more 20,000 TV stations around the globe reach out to 5 billion people worldwide. Such that TV plays a major role in shaping public opinion.

With more than US \$ 400 billion invested in TV productions and distribution alone, it is serious business laden with cut-throat competition, political manipulations and corporate interests.

Global scale media mergers in the industry have led to limiting the viewpoints having access to mass media, specially the Islamic viewpoint.

This scenario needs to be countered with a global reach for the truth of Islam.

As the Qur'an (Ch. 21, V. 18) advises us:

*“When truth is hurled against falsehood, falsehood perishes, for falsehood by its nature is bound to perish”.*

# ISLAAM

## Introduction to Islam

Islam is a Semitic religion, which has over one billion adherents all over the world. Islam means "submission to the will of God". Muslims accept the Qur'an, as the word of God revealed to His last and final prophet, Muhammad (peace be upon him). Islam states that Allah sent messengers and prophets throughout the ages with the message of Unity of God and accountability in the Hereafter. Islam thus makes it an article of faith to believe in all the earlier prophets, starting with Adam, and continuing with Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, John the Baptist and Jesus amongst many others (may peace be on them all).

## Concept of God

- The Most Concise Definition of God
- Surah Ikhlas - the touchstone of theology
- What does Islam say about 'god-men'?
- By what name do we call God?
- God does not take human form:
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- God only performs Godly acts:
- Philosophy Of Anthropomorphism
- The Creator prepares the instruction manual
- Allah chooses Messengers:
- Each attribute of God is unique and possessed by Him alone:
- Unity of God
- Tawheed

## The Most Concise Definition of God:

"Say: He is Allah,  
The One and Only.  
"Allah, the Eternal, Absolute.  
"He begets not, nor is He begotten.

And there is none like unto Him."

[Al-Qur'an 112:1-4]

The word ‘[Assamad](#)’ is difficult to translate. It means ‘absolute existence’, which can be attributed only to Allah (swt), all other existence being temporal or conditional. It also means that Allah (swt) is not dependent on any person or thing, but all persons and things are dependent on Him.

### **Surah Ikhlas - the touchstone of theology:**

[Surah Ikhlas \(Chapter 112\) of the Glorious Qur’an](#), is the touchstone of theology. ‘Theo’ in Greek means God and ‘logy’ means study. Thus Theology means study of God and to Muslims this four line definition of Almighty God serves as the touchstone of the study of God. Any candidate to divinity must be subjected to this ‘acid test’. Since the attributes of Allah given in this chapter are unique, false gods and pretenders to divinity can be easily dismissed using these verses.

### **What does Islam say about ‘god-men’?**

[India is often called the land of ‘god-men’](#). This is due to the abundance of so-called spiritual masters in India. Many of these ‘babas’ and ‘saints’ have a large following in many countries. Islam abhors deification of any human being. To understand the Islamic stand towards such pretenders to divinity, let us analyze one such ‘god-man’, Osho Rajneesh.

Let us put this candidate, ‘[Bhagwan](#)’ [Rajneesh](#), to the test of [Surah Ikhlas](#), the touchstone of theology:

1. The first criterion is "Say, He is Allah, one and only". Is Rajneesh one and only? No! Rajneesh was one among the multitude of ‘spiritual teachers’ produced by India. Some disciples of Rajneesh might still hold that Rajneesh is one and only.
2. The second criterion is, ‘Allah is absolute and eternal’. We know from Rajneesh’s biography that he was suffering from diabetes, asthma, and chronic backache. He alleged that the U.S. Government gave him slow poison in prison. Imagine Almighty God being poisoned! Rajneesh was thus, neither absolute nor eternal.
3. The third criterion is ‘He begets not, nor is He begotten’. We know that Rajneesh was born in Jabalpur in India and had a mother as well as a father who later became his disciples.

In May 1981 he went to U.S.A. and established a town called ‘Rajneeshpuram’. He later fell foul of the West and was finally arrested and asked to leave the country.

He came back to India and started a commune in Pune which is now known as the 'Osho' commune. He died in 1990. The followers of Osho Rajneesh believe that he is Almighty God. At the 'Osho commune' in Pune one can find the following epitaph on his tombstone:

"Osho – never born, never died; only visited the planet Earth between 11th December 1931 to 19th January 1990."

They forget to mention that he was not granted visa for 21 countries of the world. Can a person ever imagine 'God' visiting the earth, and requiring a visa to enter a country! The Archbishop of Greece said that if Rajneesh had not been deported, they would have burnt his house and those of his disciples.

4. The fourth test, which is the most stringent is, "There is none like unto Him". The moment you can imagine or compare 'God' to anything, then he (the candidate to divinity) is not God. It is not possible to conjure up a mental picture of the One True God. We know that Rajneesh was a human being, having two eyes, two ears, a nose, a mouth and a white flowing beard. Photographs and posters of Rajneesh are available in plenty. The moment you can imagine or draw a mental picture of an entity, then that entity is not God.

Many are tempted to make anthropomorphic comparisons of God. Take for instance, Arnold Schwarzenegger, the famous body builder and Hollywood actor, who won the title of 'Mr. Universe', the strongest man in the world. Let us suppose that someone says that Almighty God is a thousand times stronger than Arnold Schwarzenegger. The moment you can compare any entity to God, whether the comparison is to Schwarzenegger or to King Kong, whether it is a thousand times or a million times stronger, it fails the Qur'anic criterion, "There is none like unto Him".

Thus, the 'acid test' cannot be passed by anyone except the One True God.

The following verse of the Glorious Qur'an conveys a similar message:

"No vision can grasp Him  
But His grasp is over  
All vision: He is  
Above all comprehension,  
Yet is acquainted with all things."  
[Al-Qur'an 6:103]

## **By what name do we call God?**

The Muslims prefer calling the Supreme Creator, Allah, instead of by the English word 'God'. The Arabic word, 'Allah', is pure and unique, unlike the English word 'God', which can be played around with.

If you add 's' to the word God, it becomes 'Gods', that is the plural of God. Allah is one and singular, there is no plural of Allah. If you add 'dess' to the word God, it becomes 'Goddess' that is a female God. There is nothing like male Allah or female Allah. Allah has no gender. If you add the word 'father' to 'God' it becomes 'God-father'. God-father means someone who is a guardian. There is no word like 'Allah-Abba' or 'Allah-father'. If you add the word 'mother' to 'God', it becomes 'God-mother'. There is nothing like 'Allah-Amami', or 'Allah-mother' in Islam. Allah is a unique word. If you prefix tin before the word God, it becomes tin-God i.e., fake God. Allah is a unique word, which does not conjure up any mental picture nor can it be played around with. Therefore the Muslims prefer using the Arabic word 'Allah' for the Almighty. Sometimes, however, while speaking to the non-Muslims we may have to use the inappropriate word God, for Allah. Since the intended audience of this article is general in nature, consisting of both Muslims as well as non-Muslims, I have used the word God instead of Allah in several places in this article.

### **God does not become a human being:**

### **God does not take human form:**

Some may argue that God does not become a human being but only takes a human form. If God only takes a human form but does not become a human being, He should not possess any human qualities. We know that all the 'God-men', have human qualities and failings. They have all the human needs such as the need to eat, sleep, etc.

The worship of God in human form is therefore a logical fallacy and should be abhorred in all its forms and manifestations.

That is the reason why the Qur'an speaks against all forms of anthropomorphism.

The Glorious Qur'an says in the following verse:

"There is nothing whatever like unto Him."

[Al-Qur'an 42:11]

## **God does not perform ungodly acts:**

The attributes of Almighty God preclude any evil since God is the source of justice, mercy and truth. God can never be thought of as doing an ungodly act. Hence we cannot imagine God telling a lie, being unjust, making a mistake, forgetting things, or having any such human failings. Similarly God can do injustice if He chooses to, but He will never do it because being unjust is an ungodly act.

**The Qur'an says:**

"Allah is never unjust In the least degree."

**[Al-Qur'an 4:40]**

God can be unjust if He chooses to be so, but the moment God does injustice, He ceases to be God.

God does not make mistakes

God can make mistakes if He wants to, but He does not make mistakes because making a mistake is an ungodly act.

**The Qur'an says:**

"...my Lord never errs."

**[Holy Qur'an 20:52]**

The moment God makes a mistake, he ceases to be God.

God does not forget

God can forget if He wants to. But God does not forget anything because forgetting is an ungodly act, which reeks of human limitations and failings.

**The Qur'an says:**

"...my Lord never errs, nor forgets."

**[Al-Qur'an 20:52]**



## **God only performs Godly acts:**

The Islamic concept of God is that God has power over all things. The Qur'an says in several places (Al -Qur'an 2:106; 2:109; 2:284; 3:29; 16:77; and 35:1):

"For verily Allah has power over all things"

Further, the Glorious Qur'an says:

"Allah is the doer of all that He intends."

**[Al-Qura'n 85:16]**

We must keep in mind that Allah intends only Godly acts and not ungodly acts.

## **PHILOSOPHY OF ANTHROPOMORPHISM :**

Many religions at some point believe, directly or indirectly, in the philosophy of anthropomorphism i.e. God becoming a human. Their contention is that Almighty God is so pure and holy that He is unaware of the hardships, shortcomings and feelings of human beings. In order to set the rules for human beings, He came down to earth as a human. This deceptive logic has fooled countless millions through the ages. Let us now analyze this argument and see if it stands to reason.

### **The Creator prepares the instruction manual:**

Suppose I manufacture a video cassette recorder (VCR). Do I have to become a VCR to know what is good or what is bad for the VCR? What do I do? I write an instruction manual: "In order to watch a video cassette, insert the cassette and press the play button. In order to stop, press the stop button. If you want to fast forward press the FF button. Do not drop it from a height or it will get damaged. Do not immerse it in water or it will get spoilt". I write an instruction manual that lists the various do's and don'ts for the machine.

### **Holy Qur'an is the instruction manual for the human being:**

Similarly, our Lord and Creator Allah (swt) need not take human form to know what is good or bad for the human being. He chooses to reveal the instruction manual. The last and final instruction manual of the human beings is the Glorious Qur'an. The 'dos' and 'don'ts' for the human beings are mentioned in the Qur'an. If you allow me to compare human beings with machines, I would say humans are

more complicated than the most complex machines in the world. Even the most advanced computers, which are extremely complex, are pale in comparison to the myriad physical, psychological, genetic and social factors that affect individual and collective human life.

The more advanced the machine, greater is the need for its instruction manual. By the same logic, don't human beings require an instruction manual by which to govern their own lives?

### **Allah chooses Messengers:**

Allah (swt) need not come down personally for giving the instruction manual. He chooses a man amongst men to deliver the message and communicates with him at a higher level through the medium of revelations. Such chosen men are called messengers and prophets of God.

Some people are 'blind' and 'deaf':

Despite the absurdity of the philosophy of anthropomorphism, followers of many religions believe in and preach it to others. Is it not an insult to human intelligence and to the Creator who gave us this intelligence? Such people are truly 'deaf' and 'blind' despite the faculty of hearing and sight given to them by Allah.

The Qur'an says:

"Deaf, dumb, and blind,  
They will not return (to the path)."

**[Al-Qur'an 2:18]**

The Bible gives a similar message in the Gospel of Matthew:

"Seeing they see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand."

**[The Bible, Matthew 13:13]**

A similar message is also given in the Hindu Scriptures in the Rigveda.

"There maybe someone who sees the words and yet indeed does not see them; may be another one who hears these words but indeed does not hear them." 1

**[Rigveda 10:71:4]**

All these scriptures are telling their readers that though the things are made so clear yet many people divert away from the truth.

### **Attributes of God:**

To Allah belong the most beautiful names:

The Qur'an says:

"Say: Call upon Allah, or  
Call upon Rahman:  
By whatever name you call  
Upon Him, (it is well):  
For to Him belong  
The Most Beautiful Names."

[Al-Qur'an 17:110]

A similar message regarding the beautiful names of Allah (swt) is repeated in the Qur'an in Surah Al-A'raf (7:180), in Surah Taha (20:8) and in Surah Al-Hashr (59:24).

The Qur'an gives no less than ninety-nine different attributes to Almighty Allah. The Qur'an refers to Allah as Ar-Rahman (Most Gracious), Ar-Raheem (Most Merciful) and Al-Hakeem (All Wise) among many other names. You can call Allah by any name but that name should be beautiful and should not conjure up a mental picture.

### **Each attribute of God is unique and possessed by Him alone:**

Not only does God possess unique attributes, but also each attribute of Almighty God is sufficient to identify Him. I shall clarify this point in detail. Let us take an example of a famous personality, say Neil Armstrong. Neil Armstrong is an astronaut. The attribute of being an astronaut possessed by Neil Armstrong is correct but not unique to Neil Armstrong alone. So when one asks, who is an astronaut? The answer is, there are hundreds of people in the world who are astronauts. Neil Armstrong is an American. The attribute of being American possessed by Neil Armstrong is correct but not sufficient to identify him. So when one asks, who is an American? The answer is, there are millions of people who are American. To identify the person uniquely we must look for a unique attribute

possessed by none except that person. For example, Neil Armstrong was the first human to set foot on the moon. So when one asks, who was the first man to set foot on the moon, the answer is only one, i.e. Neil Armstrong. Similarly the attribute of Almighty God should be unique. If I say God is the constructor of buildings, it is possible and true, but it is not unique. Thousands of people can construct a building. But each attribute of Allah is unique and points to none but Allah. For example, God is the creator of the universe. If someone asks who is the creator of the universe, the answer is only one, i.e. Almighty God is the Ultimate Creator. Similarly, following are some of the many unique attributes possessed by none other than the Creator of the universe, Almighty Allah:

"Ar-Raheem", the Most Merciful  
"Ar-Rahman", the Most Gracious  
"Al-Hakeem", the Most Wise

So when one asks, "Who is 'Ar-Raheem', (the Most Merciful)?" , there can only be one answer: "Almighty Allah".

### **One attribute of God should not contradict with other attributes:**

Besides the attribute being unique, it should not contradict other attributes. To continue with the earlier example, suppose somebody says that Neil Armstrong is an American astronaut who was the first human to set foot on the moon and was an Indian. The attribute possessed by Neil Armstrong of being the first man to set foot on the moon, is correct. But its associated quality of being an Indian, is false. Similarly if someone says that God is the Creator of the Universe and has one head, two hands, two feet, etc., the attribute (Creator of the Universe) is correct but the associated quality (in the form of human being) is wrong and false.

### **All attributes should point to the one and same God:**

Since there is only one God, all the attributes should point to one and the same God. To say that Neil Armstrong was an American astronaut who first set foot on the moon, but he was born in 1971 is wrong. Both these unique qualities belong to one and the same person, i.e. Neil Armstrong. Similarly to say that the Creator of the universe is one God and the Cherisher is another God is absurd because God possesses all these attributes combined together.

Unity of God Some polytheists argue by saying that the existence of more than one God is not illogical. Let us point out to them that if there were more than one God,

they would dispute with one another, each god trying to fulfill his will against the will of the other gods. This can be seen in the mythology of the polytheistic and pantheistic religions. If a 'God' is defeated or unable to defeat the others, he is surely not the one true God. Also popular among polytheistic religions is the idea of many Gods, each having different responsibilities. Each one would be responsible for a part of man's existence e.g. a Sun-God, a Rain-God, etc. This indicates that one 'God' is incompetent of certain acts and moreover he is also ignorant of the other Gods' powers, duties, functions and responsibilities. There cannot be an ignorant and incapable God. If there were more than one God it would surely lead to confusion, disorder, chaos and destruction in the universe. But the universe is in complete harmony.

The Glorious Qur'an says:

"If there were, in the heavens  
And the earth, other gods  
Besides Allah, there would  
Have been confusion in both!  
But glory to Allah,  
The Lord of the Throne:  
(High is He) above  
What they attribute to Him!"

[Al-Qur'an 21:22]

**If there were more than one God, they would have taken away what they create:**

The Qur'an says:

"No son did Allah beget,  
Nor is there any god  
Along with Him: (if there were  
Many gods), behold, each god  
Would have taken away  
What he had created,  
And some would have  
Lorded it over others!  
Glory to Allah! (He is free)  
From the (sort of) things  
They attribute to Him!"

[Al-Qur'an 23:91]

Thus the existence of one True, Unique, Supreme, Almighty God, is the only logical concept of God.

## **TAWHEED**

### Definition and Categories:

Islam believes in ‘Tawheed’ which is not merely monotheism i.e. belief in one God, but much more. Tawheed literally means ‘unification’ i.e. ‘asserting oneness’ and is derived from the Arabic verb ‘Wahhada’ which means to unite, unify or consolidate.

Tawheed can be divided into three categories.

1. Tawheed ar-Ruboobeeyah
2. Tawheed al-Asmaa-was-Sifaat
3. Tawheed al-Ibaadah.

#### A. Tawheed ar-Ruboobeeyah (maintaining the unity of Lordship)

The first category is ‘Tawheed ar-Ruboobeeyah’. ‘Ruboobeeyah’ is derived from the root verb "Rabb" meaning Lord, Sustainer and Cherisher.

Therefore ‘Tawheed-ar-Ruboobeeyah’ means maintaining the unity of Lordship. This category is based on the fundamental concept that Allah (swt) alone caused all things to exist when there was nothing. He created or originated all that exists out of nothing. He alone is the sole Creator, Cherisher, and Sustainer of the complete universe and all between it, without any need from it or for it.

#### B. Tawheed al-Asmaa was-Sifaat (maintaining the unity of Allah’s name and attributes):

The second category is ‘Tawheed al Asmaa was Sifaat’ which means maintaining the unity of Allah’s name and attributes. This category is divided into five aspects:

(i) Allah should be referred to as described by Him and His Prophet  
Allah must be referred to according to the manner in which He and His prophet have described Him without explaining His names and attributes by giving them meanings other than their obvious meanings.

(ii) Allah must be referred to as He has referred to Himself

Allah must be referred to without giving Him any new names or attributes. For example Allah may not be given the name Al-Ghaadib (the Angry One), despite the fact that He has said that He gets angry, because neither Allah nor His messenger have used this name.

(iii) Allah is referred to without giving Him the attributes of His creation

In a reference to God, we should strictly abstain from giving Him the attributes of those whom He has created. For instance in the Bible, God is portrayed as repenting for His bad thoughts in the same way as humans do when they realise their errors. This is completely against the principle of Tawheed. God does not commit any mistakes or errors and therefore never needs to repent.

The key principle when dealing with Allah's attributes [is given in the Qur'an in Surah Ash-Shur](#)

"There is nothing  
Whatever like unto Him,  
And He is the One  
That hears and sees (all things)."  
[\[Al-Qur'an 42:11\]](#)

Hearing and seeing are human faculties. However, when attributed to the Divine Being they are without comparison, in their perfection, unlike when associated with humans who require ears, eyes, etc. and who are limited in their sight and hearing in terms of space, time, capacity, etc.

(iv) God's creation should not be given any of His attributes  
To refer to a human with the attribute of God is also against the principle of Tawheed. For example, referring to a person as one who has no beginning or end (eternal).

(v) Allah's name cannot be given to His creatures  
Some Divine names in the indefinite form, like 'Raooof' or 'Raheem' are permissible names for men as Allah has used them for Prophets; but 'Ar-Raooof' (the Most Pious) and Ar-Raheem (the most Merciful) can only be used if prefixed by 'Abd' meaning 'slave of' or 'servant of' i.e. 'Abdur-Raooof' or 'Abdur-Raheem'. Similarly 'Abdur-Rasool' (slave of the Messenger) or 'Abdun-Nabee' (slave of the Prophet) are forbidden.

C. Tawheed al-Ibaadah (maintaining the unity of worship):

(i) Definition and meaning of 'Ibadaah':

'Tawheed al-Ibaadah' means maintaining the unity of worship or 'Ibaadah'. Ibaadah is derived from Arabic word 'Abd' meaning slave or servant. Thus Ibaadah means servitude and worship.

(ii) All three categories to be followed simultaneously.

Only believing in the first two categories of Tawheed without implementing Tawheed-al-Ibaadah is useless. The Qur'an gives the examples of 'Mushrikeens' (idolaters) of the Prophet's time who confirmed the first two aspects of Tawheed.

It is mentioned in the Qur'an:

"Say: 'Who is it that  
Sustains you (in life)  
From the sky and from the earth?  
Or who is it that  
Has power over hearing  
And sight? And who  
Is it that brings out  
The living from the dead  
And the dead from the living?  
And who is it that  
Rules and regulates all affairs?'  
They will soon say, 'Allah'.  
Say, 'Will you not then  
Show piety (to Him)?' "

[Al-Qur'an 10:31]

A similar example is repeated in Surah Zukhruf of the Glorious Qur'an:

"If thou ask them, Who  
Created them, they will  
Certainly say, 'Allah': how  
Then are they deluded  
Away (from the Truth)?"  
[Al-Qur'an 43:87]



The pagan Meccans knew that Allah (swt) was their Creator, Sustainer, Lord and Master. Yet they were not Muslims because they also worshipped other gods besides Allah. Allah (swt) categorised them as 'Kuffaar' (disbelievers) and 'Mushrikeen' (idol worshippers and those who associate partners with God).

"And most of them  
Believe not in Allah  
Without associating (others  
As partners) with Him!"  
[Al-Qur'an 12:106]

Thus 'Tawheed al-Ibaadah' i.e. maintaining the unity of worship is the most important aspect of Tawheed. Allah (swt) alone deserves worship and He alone can grant benefit to man for his worship.

## **SHIRK**

A. **Definition:** The omission of any of the above mentioned categories of tawheed or deficiency in the fulfillment of any criteria of Tawheed is referred to as 'shirk'. (Please note that the Arabic word 'Shirk' has the same sound as in the English word 'ship' and not as in the English word 'shirk', which means 'to evade')

'Shirk' literally means sharing or associating partners. In Islamic terms it means associating partners with Allah and is equivalent to idolatry.

B. Shirk is the greatest sin that Allah will never forgive:

The Qur'an describes the greatest sin in Surah Al-Nisa':

"Allah forgives not  
That partners should be set up  
With Him; but He forgives  
Anything else, to whom  
He pleases; to set up  
Partners with Allah  
Is to devise a sin  
Most heinous indeed."  
[Al-Qur'an 4:48]

The same message is repeated in Surah Al-Nisa':

"Allah forgives not  
(The sin of) joining other gods  
With Him; but He forgives  
Whom He pleases other sins  
Than this: one who joins  
Other gods with Allah,  
Has strayed far, far away  
(From the Right)."  
[Al-Qur'an 4:116]

C. Shirk leads to hell fire:

The Qur'an says in Surah Ma'idah:

"They do blaspheme who say:  
'Allah is Christ the son  
Of Mary.' But said Christ:  
'O Children of Israel! Worship Allah, my Lord  
And your Lord'. Whoever joins other gods with Allah –  
Allah will forbid him the Garden, and the Fire  
Will be his abode. There will for the wrongdoers  
Be no one to help."  
[Al-Qur'an 5:72]

D. Worship and Obedience to none but Allah:

The Qur'an mentions in Surah Ali-'Imran:

Say: "O people of the Book!  
Come To common terms  
As between us and you:  
That we worship none but Allah;  
That we associate no partners with Him;  
That we erect not, from among ourselves,  
Lords and patrons other than Allah."  
If then they turn back,  
Say ye: "Bear witness that we (at least)  
Are Muslims (bowing to Allah's Will)."

[Al-Qur'an 3:64]

The Glorious Qur'an says:

"And if all the trees on earth were pens  
And the Ocean (were ink), with seven Oceans behind it  
To add to its (supply), yet would not the Words  
Of Allah be exhausted (In the writing): for Allah  
Is Exalted in power, Full of Wisdom."

[Al-Qur'an 31:27]

Our analysis of Concept of God in various Religion shows that monotheism is an integral part of every major religion of the world. However, it is unfortunate that some adherents of these religions violate the teachings of their own scriptures and have set up partners to Almighty God.

An analysis of the scriptures of various religions, reveals that all scriptures exhort mankind to believe in, and submit to One God. All these scriptures condemn the association of partners to God, or the worship of God in the form of images.

The Glorious Qur'an says:

"O men! Here is  
A parable set forth!  
Listen to it! Those  
On whom, besides Allah,  
You call, cannot create  
(Even) a fly, if they all  
Met together for the purpose!  
And if the fly should snatch  
Away anything from them,  
They would have no power  
To release it from the fly.  
Feeble are those who petition  
And those whom they petition!"

[Al-Qur'an 22:73]

The basis of religion is the acceptance of Divine guidance. A rejection of this guidance has serious implications for society. While we have made great strides in science and technology, true peace still eludes us. All 'isms' have failed to provide the much vaunted deliverance.

The scriptures of all major religions exhort mankind to follow that which is good and eschew that which is evil. All scriptures remind mankind that good will not go unrewarded and evil will not go unpunished!

The question we need to address is, which of these scriptures provides us with the correct 'instruction manual' that we need to regulate our individual and collective lives?

I hope and pray that Allah guides all of us towards the Truth (Aameen).

## **CHRISTIANITY**

### **Introduction**

Christianity is a Semitic religion, which claims to have nearly 1.2 billion adherents all over the world. Christianity owes its name to Jesus Christ (peace be on him). The Holy Bible is the sacred scripture of the Christians:

a) The Bible is divided into two parts, **the Old Testament and the New Testament**. The Old Testament is the Holy Scripture of the Jews and contains records of all the prophets of the Jews that came before Jesus (pbuh).

The New Testament contains records of the life of Jesus (pbuh).

b) The complete Bible, i.e. the Old Testament and the New Testament put together, contains 73 books. However, the Protestant Bible i.e. the King James Version, contains only 66 books as they consider 7 books of the Old Testament to be apocrypha, i.e. of doubtful authority. Therefore the Old Testament of the Catholics, contains 46 books and that of the Protestants, 39 books. However the New Testament of both these sects contains 27 books.

### **CONCEPT OF GOD IN CHRISTIANITY**

#### **I) Position of Jesus (pbuh) in Islam:**

(i)Islam is the only non-Christian faith, which makes it an article of faith to believe in Jesus (pbuh). No Muslim is a Muslim if he does not believe in Jesus (pbuh).

(ii) We believe that he was one of the mightiest Messengers of Allah (swt).

(iii) We believe that he was born miraculously, without any male intervention, which many modern day Christians do not believe.

(iv) We believe he was the Messiah translated Christ (pbuh).

(v) We believe that he gave life to the dead with God's permission.

(iv) We believe that he healed those born blind, and the lepers with God's permission.

## II) Concept of God in Christianity:

### 1. Jesus Christ (pbuh) never claimed Divinity

One may ask, if both Muslims and Christians love and respect Jesus (pbuh), where exactly is the parting of ways? The major difference between Islam and Christianity is the Christians' insistence on the supposed divinity of Christ (pbuh). A study of the Christian scriptures reveals that Jesus (pbuh) never claimed divinity. In fact there is not a single unequivocal statement in the entire Bible where Jesus (pbuh) himself says, "I am God" or where he says, "worship me". In fact the Bible contains statements attributed to Jesus (pbuh) in which he preached quite the contrary.

The following statements in the Bible are attributed to Jesus Christ (pbuh):

(i) "My Father is greater than I."

[The Bible, John 14:28]

(ii) "My Father is greater than all."

[The Bible, John 10:29]

(iii) "...I cast out devils by the Spirit of God...."

[The Bible, Mathew 12:28]

(iv) "...I with the finger of God cast out devils...."

[The Bible, Luke 11:20]

(v) "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgement is just; because I seek not my own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."

[The Bible, John 5:30]

## 2. The Mission of Jesus Christ (pbuh) – to Fulfill the Law

Jesus (pbuh) never claimed divinity for himself. He clearly announced the nature of his mission. Jesus (pbuh) was sent by God to confirm the previous Judaic law. This is clearly evident in the following statements attributed to Jesus (pbuh) in the Gospel of Mathew:

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the Prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

"Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven; but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

"For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

[The Bible, Mathew 5:17-20]

## 3. God Sent Jesus' (pbuh)

The Bible mentions the prophetic nature of Jesus (pbuh) mission in the following verses:

(i)"... and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me."

[The Bible, John 14:24]

(ii)"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou has sent."

[The Bible, John 17:3]

#### **4. Jesus Refuted even the Remotest Suggestion of his Divinity**

Consider the following incident mentioned in the Bible:

"And behold, one came and said unto him, 'Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?'

And he said unto him, 'Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.' "

[The Bible, Mathew 19:16-17]

Jesus (pbuh) did not say that to have the eternal life of paradise, man should believe in him as Almighty God or worship him as God, or believe that Jesus (pbuh) would die for his sins. On the contrary he said that the path to salvation was through keeping the commandments. It is indeed striking to note the difference between the words of Jesus Christ (pbuh) and the Christian dogma of salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus (pbuh).

#### **5. Jesus (pbuh) of Nazareth – a Man Approved of God**

The following statement from the Bible supports the Islamic belief that Jesus (pbuh) was a prophet of God.

"Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know."

[The Bible, Acts 2:22]

#### **6. The First Commandment is that God is One**

The Bible does not support the Christian belief in trinity at all. One of the scribes once asked Jesus (pbuh) as to which was the first commandment of all, to which Jesus (pbuh) merely repeated what Moses (pbuh) had said earlier:

"Shama Israelu Adonai Ila Hayno Adonai Ikhad."

This is a Hebrew quotation, which means:

"Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord."

[The Bible, Mark 12:29]

It is striking that the basic teachings of the Church such as Trinity and vicarious atonement find no mention in the Bible. In fact, various verses of the Bible point to Jesus' (pbuh) actual mission, which was to fulfill the law revealed to Prophet Moses (pbuh). Indeed Jesus (pbuh) rejected any suggestions that attributed divinity to him, and explained his miracles as the power of the One True God.

Jesus (pbuh) thus reiterated the message of monotheism that was given by all earlier prophets of Almighty God.

NOTE: All quotations of the Bible are taken from the King James Version.

### III) Concept of God in Old Testament:

#### 1. God is One

The following verse from the book of Deuteronomy contains an exhortation from Moses (pbuh):

"Shama Israelu Adonai Ila Hayno Adna Ikhad".

It is a Hebrew quotation which means:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord"

[The Bible, Deuteronomy 6:4]

#### 2. Unity of God in the Book of Isaiah

The following verses are from the Book of Isaiah:

(i) "I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour."

[The Bible, Isaiah 43:11]

(ii) "I am Lord, and there is none else, there is no God besides me."

[The Bible, Isaiah 45:5]



(iii) "I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me."  
[The Bible, Isaiah 46:9]

### 3. Old Testament condemns idol worship

(i) Old Testament condemns idol worship in the following verses:

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:"

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God."

[The Bible, Exodus 20:3-5]

(ii) A similar message is repeated in the book of Deuteronomy:

"Thou shalt have none other gods before me."

"Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that in the earth beneath, or that is in the water beneath the earth."

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God."

[The Bible, Deuteronomy 5:7-9]

### SIMILARITIES BETWEEN ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY

**Al-Qur'an 3:64**

Al-Qur'an 20:25-28

Greet you in the same manner as Jesus (pbuh) greeted in Hebrew Luke 24:36

‘Sholam alay kum’

or Islamic greeting in Arabic Assalaamu alai kum

both meaning ‘Peace be on you’.

## Similarities / Similar Teachings in the Qur'an and the Bible which Muslims follow but Christians don't

### I) ISLAM

#### 1. Definition

##### A. Meaning of Islam

- (i) Islam is derived from the word *salaam* meaning peace.
- (ii) Submission to the Will of Allah (swt) i.e. God Almighty.

B. Meaning of 'Muslim' – One who submits his will to Allah.

C. Islam is not a new religion found by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

#### 2. Messengers in Islam

##### A. (i) To every nation was sent a Guide or a Messenger

Al-Qur'an 35:24

Al-Qur'an 13:7

##### (ii) 25 Prophets mentioned by name in the Qur'an

(iii) Islam is the only non-Christian faith that believes in Jesus (pbuh)

(iv) Stories only of some prophets mentioned in Qur'an

Al-Qur'an 4:164

Al-Qur'an 40:78

(v) More than 1,24,000 Messengers according to Hadith

B. (i) Previous Messengers were only sent for their people and nation and their complete message was meant only for a particular time period.

(ii) Moses (pbuh) was only sent for the Jews.

(iii) Jesus (pbuh) sent only for the Jews i.e. lost sheep of Israel.

Al-Qur'an 3:49

Mathew 10:5-6

Mathew 15:24

(iv) Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the Last and Final Messenger for the Whole of Mankind.

Al-Qur'an 33:40

Al-Qur'an 21:107

Al-Qur'an 34:28

Sahih Bukhari Vol.1 Book of *Salaah* Chapter 56 Hadith No. 429

(v) Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) prophesied in the Bible.

Al-Qur'an 7:157

Al-Qur'an 61:6

Deuteronomy 18:18

Isaiah 29:12

Song of Solomon 5:16

John 16:7

John 16:12-14

### 3. Revelations of God

A. Several Revelations sent by Allah – Al-Qur'an 13:38.

By name only four are mentioned in the Qur'an.

B. (i) The Qur'an is the Last and Final Revelation.

(ii) All previous Revelations before Qur'an were only sent for a particular group of people and for a particular time period

(iii) The Qur'an was Revealed for the Whole of Mankind

Al-Qur'an 14:1

Al-Qur'an 14:52

Al-Qur'an 2:185

Al-Qur'an 39:41

## II) PILLARS OF ISLAM:

### 1. Tauheed: Monotheism

A. *La ilaha ilallahu, Muhammad-ur-Rasoolullah*

Sahih Bukhari Vol. 1 Hadith No. 7

B. Believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels and the Book and the Messengers.

Al-Qur'an 2:177

C. Come to common terms — Worship of one God

Al-Qur'an 3:64

D. Concept of God

Al-Qur'an 112:1-4

Deuteronomy 6:4

Mark 12:29

E. *Shirk* – Biggest Sin

Al-Qur'an 4:48

Al-Qur'an 4:116

Exodus 20:2-5

Deuteronomy 5:7-9

F. Jesus (pbuh) not God. He never claimed Divinity

Al-Qur'an 5:72

John 14:28

John 10:29

Mathew 12:28

Luke 11:20

John 5:30

Acts 2:21

G. 99 Attributes of Almighty God

Al-Qur'an 17:110

H. Prefer using name 'Allah' rather than the word 'God' as the word 'God' can be played around with. *Allah in the Bible – Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani*

Mark 15:34

Mathew 27:46

## 2. Salaah

A. Not merely Prayers but Programming

Al-Qur'an 5:90

Al-Qur'an 2:188

B. Prayers restrain you from shameful and unjust deeds

Al-Qur'an 29:45

C. *Salaah* timings – for healthy soul five times a day

Al-Qur'an 17:78

Al-Qur'an 20:130

D. Take off shoes before entering mosque.

(i) Commandment of Allah to Moses

Al-Qur'an 20:11-12

Exodus 3:5

Acts 7:33

(ii) Can Pray with Shoes.

Sunan Abu Dawood – Vol. 1, Book of *Salaah*, Chapter 240,

Hadith No. 652-653.

(iii) Hygienic

E. Ablution

(i) Al-Qur'an 5:6

Exodus 40:31-32

Acts 21:26

(ii) Hygienic

(iii) Mental Preparation

F. Stand shoulder to shoulder, while praying –

Sahih Bukhari – Vol. 1, Book of Adhan Chapter 75 Hadith no. 692

Abu Dawood – Vol. 1, Book of *Salaah* Chapter 245 Hadith No. 666.

G. Sujud – Prostration

(i) To humble your mind, humble your body

(ii) Sujud mentioned 92 times in the Qur'an

Al-Qur'an 3:43

Al-Qur'an 22:77

(iii) Prostration in the Bible  
Genesis 17:3; Numbers 20:6  
Joshua 5:14; Mathew 26:39

### 3. Zakaah

- A. Meaning: Purification and Growth
- B. Description: 2.5% of saving every lunar year in charity  
Al-Qur'an 9:60
- C. If every human being gives *Zakaah*, not a single person will die of hunger.
- D. "Wealth does not circulate only amongst the wealthy and the rich"  
Al-Qur'an 59:7
- E. I Peter 4:8

### 4. Saum - Fasting

- A. Description – one lunar month i.e. during the month of *Ramadaan* every lunar year, Muslims fast, i.e. abstain from food and drinks from sunrise till sunset.
- B. Benefits: learn self restraint. If you can control your hunger you can control almost all your desires. It enhances spiritual awareness.  
Al-Qur'an 2:183
- C. Medical Benefits:
  - (a) Increases absorption capacity of intestines
  - (b) Lowers cholesterol.
- D. Discourages smoking, alcoholism and other addictions.
- E. Bible prescribes Fasting
  - Mathew 17:21
  - Mark 9:29

## 5. Haji

- A. Description – Pilgrimage atleast once in life time if you can afford it
- B. Universal Brotherhood – 2.5 million people from all over the world gather, wear two pieces of unsewn cloth, preferably white. Cannot differentiate between rich and poor.

Al-Qur'an 49:13

- C. Significance of *Kaaba* – Muslims don't worship it

Psalms 84:4-7

## III ) ISLAM IS A COMPLETE WAY OF LIFE

These five pillars do not constitute complete Islam. Only if the pillars are strong, will the structure be strong.

### 1. Humans Created to Worship Allah

- A. *Jinn* and Man created for worship of Allah

Al-Qur'an 51:56

- B. Meaning of *Ibadaah* – root word *Abd* meaning 'slave'.

### 2. Obeying Commandments of Allah is Submitting your will to Allah

- A. Abstaining from alcohol

Al-Qur'an 5:90

Proverbs 20:1

Ephesians 5:18

- B. Abstaining from prohibited food

Al-Qur'an 5:5

Al-Qur'an 2:173, 5:3, 6:145, 16:115

- (i) Dead meat

Leviticus 17:15

Deuteronomy 14:21

(ii) Blood

Genesis 9:4, Leviticus 17:14, Deuteronomy 12:16,  
I Samuel 14:33, Acts 15:29

(iii) Pork is prohibited

Leviticus 11:7-8

Deuteronomy 14:8

Isaiah 65:2-5

(vi) Food on which names beside Allah have been invoked

Acts 15:29; Revelation 2:14

C. (i) Being Honest in your Business

(ii) Helping Neighbours

Al-Qur'an 107:1-7

(iii) Abstaining from Backbiting

Al-Qur'an 104:1-3

Al-Qur'an 49:11-12

(iv) Obeying and Respecting Parents

Al-Qur'an 17:23, 24

(v) Celibacy or Monasticism is prohibited in Islam

Sahih Bukhari: Vol. 7 Book of Nikah, Chapter No. 3, Hadith No. 4

(vi) Loving, being Kind and Just to your Wife

Al-Qur'an 4:19

(vii) Abstaining from Adultery

Al-Qur'an 17:32

D. Dressing Modestly

(i) Al-Qur'an 24:30

Mathew 5:27-28

(ii) Al-Qur'an 24:31

(iii) Six Criteria for Hijab in Islam

Deuteronomy 22:5



I Timothy 2:9 e.g. of Mary  
I Corinthians 11:5-6

#### E. Circumcision

Acts 7:8

John 7:22

Luke 2:21

F. In short, every Muslim should follow all the Commandments of Allah (swt) and His Messenger Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and abstain from the things they have prohibited.

### CONCLUSION

(a) If Christian is a person who follows the teachings of Christ (pbuh) and not one who worships Christ (pbuh). (We are more Christian than the Christians themselves).

(b) Muslim is a person who submits his will to Allah.

Jesus (pbuh) said, "not my will but thy will be done." i.e. Muslim.

John 5:30

(c) Al-Qur'an 5:82

### ***PROPHET MUHAMMAD (pbuh) IN THE BIBLE***

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in the Old Testament:

The Qur'an mentions in Surah Al-Araf chapter 7 verse 157:

"Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered Prophet, whom they find mentioned in their own (scriptures) in the law and the Gospel".

### ***1. MUHAMMAD (PBUH) PROPHESED IN THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY:***

Almighty God speaks to Moses in Book of Deuteronomy chapter 18 verse 18:

"I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and I will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him."

The Christians say that this prophecy refers to Jesus (pbuh) because Jesus (pbuh) was like Moses (pbuh). Moses (pbuh) was a Jew, as well as Jesus (pbuh) was a Jew. Moses (pbuh) was a Prophet and Jesus (pbuh) was also a Prophet.

If these two are the only criteria for this prophecy to be fulfilled, then all the Prophets of the Bible who came after

Moses (pbuh) such as Solomon, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Malachi, John the Baptist, etc. (pbut) will fulfill this prophecy since all were Jews as well as prophets.

However, it is Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) who is like Moses (pbuh):

- i) Both had a father and a mother, while Jesus (pbuh) was born miraculously without any male intervention.

[Mathew 1:18 and Luke 1:35 and also Al-Qur'an 3:42-47]

- ii) Both were married and had children. Jesus (pbuh) according to the Bible did not marry nor had children.

- iii) Both died natural deaths. Jesus (pbuh) has been raised up alive. (4:157-158)

Muhammad (pbuh) is from among the brethren of Moses (pbuh). Arabs are brethren of Jews. Abraham (pbuh) had two sons: Ishmail and Isaac (pbut). The Arabs are the descendants of Ishmail (pbuh) and the Jews are the descendants of Isaac (pbuh).

**Words in the mouth:**

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was unlettered and whatever revelations he received from Almighty God he repeated them verbatim.

"I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him."

[Deuteronomy 18:18]

iv) Both besides being Prophets were also kings i.e. they could inflict capital punishment. Jesus (pbuh) said, "My kingdom is not of this world." (John 18:36).

v) Both were accepted as Prophets by their people in their lifetime but Jesus (pbuh) was rejected by his people. John chapter 1 verse 11 states, "He came unto his own, but his own received him not."

iv) Both brought new laws and new regulations for their people. Jesus (pbuh) according to the Bible did not bring any new laws. (Mathew 5:17-18).

## 2. It is Mentioned in the book of Deuteronomy chapter 18:19

"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not harken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him."

## 3. Muhammad (pbuh) is prophesised in the book of Isaiah:

It is mentioned in the book of Isaiah chapter 29 verse 12:

"And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned."

When Archangel Gabrail commanded Muhammad (pbuh) by saying Iqra - "Read", he replied, "I am not learned".

## 4. prophet Muhammad (pbuh) mentioned by name in the old testament:

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is mentioned by name in the Song of Solomon chapter 5 verse 16:

"Hikko Mamittakim we kullo Muhammadim Zehdoodeh wa Zehraee Bayna Jerusalem."

"His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem."

In the **Hebrew language** **im** is added for respect. Similarly **im** is added after the name of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) to make it Muhammadim. In English translation they have even translated the name of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) as "**altogether lovely**", but in the **Old Testament in Hebrew**, the name of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is yet present.

### **Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in the New Testament:**

#### **Al-Qur'an Chapter 61 Verse 6:**

"And remember, Jesus, the son of Mary, said, 'O Children of Israel! I am the messenger of Allah (sent) to you, confirming the Law (which came) before me and giving glad tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmed.' But when he came to them with clear signs, they said, 'This is evident sorcery!' "

All the prophecies mentioned in the Old Testament regarding Muhammad (pbuh) besides applying to the Jews also hold good for the Christians.

#### **1. John chapter 14 verse 16:**

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever."

#### **2. Gospel of John chapter 15 verse 26:**

"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me."

#### **3. Gospel of John chapter 16 verse 7:**

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you".

"Ahmed" or "Muhammad" meaning "**the one who praises**" or "**the praised one**" is almost the translation of the Greek word Periclytos. In the Gospel of John 14:16,

15:26, and 16:7. The word 'Comforter' is used in the English translation for the Greek word Paracletos which means advocate or a kind friend rather than a comforter.

Paracletos is the warped reading for Periclytos. Jesus (pbuh) actually prophesied Ahmed by name. Even the Greek word Paraclete refers to the Prophet (pbuh) who is a mercy for all creatures.

Some Christians say that the Comforter mentioned in these prophecies refers to the Holy Spirit. They fail to realize that the prophecy clearly says that only if Jesus (pbuh) departs will the Comforter come. The Bible states that the Holy Spirit was already present on earth before and during the time of Jesus (pbuh), in the womb of Elizabeth, and again when Jesus (pbuh) was being baptised, etc. Hence this prophecy refers to none other than Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

#### 4. Gospel of John chapter 16 verse 12-14:

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you unto all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me".

The Spirit of Truth, spoken about in this prophecy refers to none other than Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

NOTE: All quotations of the Bible are taken from the King James Version.

# JUDAISM

## (I) INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM:

Judaism is one of the important Semitic religions. Its followers are known as Jews and they believe in the prophetic mission of Prophet Moses (pbuh).

## (II) CONCEPT OF GOD IN JUDAISM:

- (i) The following verse from the book of Deuteronomy contains an exhortation from Moses (pbuh):

"Shama Israelu Adonai Ila Hayno Adna Ikhad"

It is a Hebrew quotation which means:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord"

[The Bible, Deuteronomy 6:4]

The following verses are from the Book of Isaiah:

- (ii) "I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour."

[The Bible, Isaiah 43:11]

- (iii) "I am Lord, and there is none else There is no God besides me."

[The Bible, Isaiah 45 : 5]

- (iv) "I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me."

[The Bible, Isaiah 46:9]

- (v) Judaism condemns idol worship in the following verses:

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth."

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God."

[The Bible, Exodus 20:3-5]

(iv) A similar message is repeated in the book of Deuteronomy:

"Thou shalt have none other gods before me."

"Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that in the earth beneath, or that is in the water beneath the earth."

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God."

[The Bible, Deuteronomy 5:7-9]

In Judaism too, we find the same thread of monotheism, that is seen in other religions.

### **(III) MUHAMMAD IN JEWISH SCRIPTURES (THE OLD TESTAMENT):**

1) Muhammad (pbuh) prophesised in the book of Deuteronomy:

**a) God Almighty speaks to Moses in Book of Deuteronomy chapter 18 verse 18:**

"I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him."

**b) Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is like Moses (pbuh):**

i) Both had a father and a mother.

ii) Both were married and had children.

iii) Both were accepted as Prophets by their people in their lifetime.

iv) Both besides being Prophets were also kings i.e. they could inflict capital punishment.

v) Both brought new laws and new regulations for their people.

vi) Both died a natural death.

**c) Muhammad (pbuh) is from among the brethren of Moses (pbuh). Arabs are brethren of Jews. Abraham (pbuh) had two sons:**

Ishmail and Isaac. The Arabs are the descendants of Ishmail (pbuh) and the Jews are the descendants of Isaac (pbuh).

**d) Words in the mouth:**

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was unlettered and whatever revelations he received from God Almighty he repeated it verbatim.

Deuteronomy (18:18):

"I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him."

2) Muhammad (pbuh) is prophesied in the book of Isaiah:

It is mentioned in the book of Isaiah chapter 29 verse 12:

"And the book is delivered to him that is not learned saying, 'Read this, I pray thee'; and he saith, 'I am not learned'.

"When Archangel Gabriel commanded Muhammad (pbuh) by saying 'Iqra', he replied "I am not learned".

3) Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is mentioned by name in the Song of Solomon

chapter 5 verse 16:

"Hikko Mamittakim we kullo Muhammadim Zehdoodeh wa Zehrace Bayna Jerusalem."

"His mouth is most sweet: ye, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughter of Jerusalem."



All the prophecies mentioned in the Old Testament regarding Muhammad (pbuh) besides applying to the Jews also hold good for the Christians (H Q. 61:6)

### **CONCEPT OF GOD IN JUDAISM**

Judaism is one of the major Semitic religions. Its followers are known as Jews and they believe in the prophetic mission of Prophet Moses (pbuh).

**(i) The following verse from Deuteronomy contains an exhortation from Moses: (pbuh)**

"Shama Israelu Adonai Ila Hayno Adna Ikhad" It is a Hebrew quotation which means

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord"

[The Bible, Deut 6:4]

**(ii) Consider the following verses from the Book of Isaiah:**

"I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour."

[The Bible, Isaiah 43:11]

**(iii) "I am lord, and there is none else There is no God besides me."**

[The Bible, Isaiah 45 : 5]

**(iv) "I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me."**

[The Bible, Isaiah 46:9]

**(v) Judaism condemns idol worship in the following verses:**

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor see them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God..."

[The Bible, Exodus 20:3-5]

**(iv) A similar message is repeated in the book of Deutoronomy:**

"Thou shalt have none other gods before me. Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that in the earth beneath, or that is in the water beneath the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God..."

[The Bible, Deut 5:7-9]

## **MUHAMMAD IN JEWISH SCRIPTURES (THE OLD TESTAMENT):**

### **1) Muhammad (pbuh) prophesised in the book of Deuteronomy:**

a) God Almighty speaks to Moses in Book of Deuteronomy chapter 18 verse 18:

"I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him."

b) Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is like Moses (pbuh):

i) Both had a father and a mother.

ii) Both were married and had children.

iii) Both were accepted as Prophets by their people in their lifetime.

iv) Both besides being Prophets were also kings i.e. they could inflict capital punishment.

v) Both brought new laws and new regulations for their people.

vi) Both died a natural death.

c) Muhammad (pbuh) is from among the brethren of Moses (pbuh). Arabs are brethren of Jews. Abraham (pbuh) had two sons: Ishmail and Isaac. The Arabs are the descendants of Ishmail (pbuh) and the Jews are the descendants of Isaac (pbuh).

d) Words in the mouth:

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was unlettered and whatever revelations he received from God Almighty he repeated it verbatim.

**Deuteronomy (18:18):**

"I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him."

## **2) Muhammad (pbuh) is prophesied in the book of Isaiah:**

It is mentioned in the book of Isaiah chapter 29 verse 12:

"And the book is delivered to him that is not learned saying, 'Read this, I pray thee'; and he saith, 'I am not learned'.

"When Archangel Gabriel commanded Muhammad (pbuh) by saying 'Iqra', he replied "I am not learned".

## **3) Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is mentioned by name in the Song of Solomon chapter 5 verse 16:**

"Hikko Mamittakim we kullo Muhammadim Zehdoodeh wa Zehrace Bayna Jerusalem."

"His mouth is most sweet: ye, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughter of Jerusalem."

All the prophecies mentioned in the Old Testament regarding Muhammad (pbuh) besides applying to the Jews also hold good for the Christians (H Q. 61:6).

## **HINDUISM**

### **INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM:**

The most popular among the Aryan religions is Hinduism. 'Hindu' is actually a Persian word that stands for the inhabitants of the region beyond the Indus Valley. However, in common parlance, Hinduism is a blanket term for an assortment of religious beliefs, most of which are based on the Vedas, the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita.

### **II INTRODUCTION TO HINDU SCRIPTURES.**

There are several sacred scriptures of the Hindus. Among these are the Vedas, Upanishads and the Puranas.

## **1. VEDAS:**

1. The word Veda is derived from vid which means to know, knowledge par excellence or sacred wisdom. There are four principal divisions of the Vedas (although according to their number, they amount to 1131 out of which about a dozen are available). According to Maha Bhashya of Patanjali, there are 21 branches of Rigveda, 9 types of Atharvaveda, 101 branches of Yajurveda and 1000 of Samveda).

2. The Rigveda, the Yajurveda and the Samveda are considered to be more ancient books and are known as Trai Viddya or the 'Triple Sciences'. The Rigveda is the oldest and has been compiled in three long and different periods of time. The 4th Veda is the Atharvaveda, which is of a later date.

3. There is no unanimous opinion regarding the date of compilation or revelation of the four Vedas. According to Swami Dayanand, founder of the Arya Samaj, the Vedas were revealed 1310 million years ago. According to other scholars, they are not more than 4000 years old.

4. Similarly, there are differing opinions regarding the places where these books were compiled and the Rishis to whom these Scriptures were given. In spite of these differences, the Vedas are considered to be the most authentic of the Hindu Scriptures and the real foundations of the Hindu Dharma.

## **2. UPANISHADS:**

1. The word 'Upanishad' is derived from Upa meaning near, Ni which means down and Shad means to sit. Therefore 'Upanishad' means sitting down near. Groups of pupils sit near the teacher to learn from him the secret doctrines.

According to Samkara, 'Upanishad' is derived from the root word Sad which means 'to loosen', 'to reach' or 'to destroy', with Upa and ni as prefix; therefore 'Upanishad' means Brahma-Knowledge by which ignorance is loosened or destroyed.

2. The number of Upanishads exceeds 200 though the Indian tradition puts it at 108. There are 10 principal Upanishads. However, some consider them to be more than 10, while others 18.

3. The Vedanta meant originally the Upanishads, though the word is now used for the system of philosophy based on the Upanishad. Literally, Vedanta means the end of the Veda, Vedasua-antah, and the conclusion as well as the goal of Vedas. The Upanishads are the concluding portion of the Vedas and chronologically they come at the end of the Vedic period.

4. Some Pundits consider the Upanishads to be more superior to the Vedas.

### **3. PURANAS:**

Next in order of authenticity are the Puranas which are the most widely read scriptures. It is believed that the Puranas contain the history of the creation of the universe, history of the early Aryan tribes, life stories of the divines and deities of the Hindus. It is also believed that the Puranas are revealed books like the Vedas, which were revealed simultaneously with the Vedas or sometime close to it.

Maharishi Vyasa has divided the Puranas into 18 voluminous parts. He also arranged the Vedas under various heads.

Chief among the Puranas is a book known as Bhavishya Purana. It is called so because it is believed to give an account of future events. The Hindus consider it to be the word of God. Maharishi yasa is considered to be just the compiler of the book.

### **4. ITIHAAS:**

The two epics of Hinduism are the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

#### **A. Ramayana:**

According to Ramanuja, the great scholar of Ramayana, there are more than 300 different types of Ramayana: Tulsidas Ramayana, Kumbha Ramayana. Though the

outline of Ramayana is same, the details and contents differ.

### **Valmiki's Ramayana:**

Unlike the Mahabharata, the Ramayana appears to be the work of one person – the sage Valmiki, who probably composed it in the 3rd century BC. Its best-known recension (by Tulsi Das, 1532-1623) consists of 24,000 rhymed couplets of 16-syllable lines organised into 7 books. The poem incorporates many ancient legends and draws on the sacred books of the Vedas. It describes the efforts of Kosala's heir, Rama, to regain his throne and rescue his wife, Sita, from the demon King of Lanka.

Valmiki's Ramayana is a Hindu epic tradition whose earliest literary version is a Sanskrit poem attributed to the sage Valmiki. Its principal characters are said to present ideal models of personal, familial, and social behavior and hence are considered to exemplify Dharma, the principle of moral order.

### **B. Mahabharata:**

The nucleus of the Mahabharata is the war of eighteen days fought between the Kauravas, the hundred sons of Dhritarashtra and Pandavas, the five sons of Pandu. The epic entails all the circumstances leading upto the war. Involved in this Kurukshetra battle were almost all the kings of India joining either of the two parties. The result of this war was the total annihilation of Kauravas and their party. Yudhishtira, the head of the Pandavas, became the sovereign monarch of Hastinapura. His victory is supposed to symbolise the victory of good over evil. But with the progress of years, new matters and episodes relating to the various aspects of human life, social, economic, political, moral and religious as also fragments of other heroic legends came to be added to the aforesaid nucleus and this phenomenon continued for centuries until it acquired the present shape. The Mahabharata represents a whole literature rather than one single and unified work, and contains many multifarious things.

## **C. Bhagavad Gita:**

Bhagavad Gita is a part of Mahabharata. It is the advice given by Krishna to Arjun on the battlefield of Kurukshetra. It contains the essence of the Vedas and is the most popular of all the Hindu Scriptures. It contains 18 chapters.

The Bhagavad Gita is one of the most widely read and revered of the works sacred to the Hindus. It is their chief devotional book, and has been for centuries the principal source of religious inspiration for many thousands of Hindus.

The Gita is a dramatic poem, which forms a small part of the larger epic, the Mahabharata. It is included in the sixth book (Bhismaparvan) of the Mahabharata and documents one tiny event in a huge epic tale.

The Bhagavad Gita tells a story of a moral crisis faced by Arjuna, which is solved through the interaction between Arjuna, a Pandava warrior hesitating before battle, and Krishna, his charioteer and teacher. The Bhagavad Gita relates a brief incident in the main story of a rivalry and eventually a war between two branches of a royal family. In that brief incident - a pause on the battlefield just as the battle is about to begin - Krishna, one chief on one side (also believed to be the Lord incarnate), is presented as responding to the doubts of Arjuna. The poem is the dialogue through which Arjuna's doubts were resolved by Krishna's teachings.

## **CONCEPT OF GOD IN HINDUISM**

### **1. Common Concept of God in Hinduism:**

Hinduism is commonly perceived as a polytheistic religion. Indeed, most Hindus would attest to this, by professing belief in multiple Gods. While some Hindus believe in the existence of three gods, some believe in thousands of gods, and some others in thirty three crore i.e. 330 million Gods. However, learned Hindus, who are well versed in their scriptures, insist that a Hindu should believe in and worship only one God.

The major difference between the Hindu and the Muslim perception of God is the common Hindus' belief in the philosophy of Pantheism. Pantheism considers

everything, living and non-living, to be Divine and Sacred. The common Hindu, therefore, considers everything as God. He considers the trees as God, the sun as God, the moon as God, the monkey as God, the snake as God and even human beings as manifestations of God!

Islam, on the contrary, exhorts man to consider himself and his surroundings as examples of Divine Creation rather than as divinity itself. Muslims therefore believe that everything is God's i.e. the word 'God' with an apostrophe 's'. In other words the Muslims believe that everything belongs to God.

The trees belong to God, the sun belongs to God, the moon belongs to God, the monkey belongs to God, the snake belongs to God, the human beings belong to God and everything in this universe belongs to God.

Thus the major difference between the Hindu and the Muslim beliefs is the difference of the apostrophe 's'. The Hindu says everything is God. The Muslim says everything is God's.

## **2. Concept of God according to Hindu Scriptures:**

We can gain a better understanding of the concept of God in Hinduism by analysing Hindu scriptures.

### **BHAGAVAD GITA:**

The most popular amongst all the Hindu scriptures is the Bhagavad Gita.

#### **Consider the following verse from the Gita:**

"Those whose intelligence has been stolen by material desires surrender unto demigods and follow the particular rules and regulations of worship according to their own natures."

[Bhagavad Gita 7:20]

The Gita states that people who are materialistic worship demigods i.e. 'gods' besides the True God.



## UPANISHADS:

The Upanishads are considered sacred scriptures by the Hindus.

The following verses from the Upanishads refer to the Concept of God:

1. "Ekam evadvitiam"

"He is One only without a second."

[Chandogya Upanishad 6:2:1]<sup>1</sup>

2. "Na casya kascij janita na cadhipah."

"Of Him there are neither parents nor lord."

[Svetasvatara Upanishad 6:9]<sup>2</sup>

3. "Na tasya pratima asti"

"There is no likeness of Him."

[Svetasvatara Upanishad 4:19]<sup>3</sup>

4. The following verses from the Upanishad allude to the inability of man to imagine God in a particular form:

"Na samdrse tisthati rupam asya, na caksusa pasyati kas canainam."

"His form is not to be seen; no one sees Him with the eye."

[Svetasvatara Upanishad 4:20]<sup>4</sup>

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1 [The Principal Upanishad by S. Radhakrishnan page 447 and 448]

[Sacred Books of the East, volume 1 'The Upanishads part I' page 93]

2 [The Principal Upanishad by S. Radhakrishnan page 745]

[Sacred Books of the East, volume 15, 'The Upanishads part II' page 263.]

3 [The Principal Upanishad by S. Radhakrishnan page 736 & 737]

[Sacred Books of the East, volume 15, 'The Upanishads part II' page no 253]

4 [The Principal Upanishad by S. Radhakrishnan page 737]

[Sacred Books of the East, volume 15, 'The Upanishads part II' page no 253]

## THE VEDAS

Vedas are considered the most sacred of all the Hindu scriptures. There are four principal Vedas: **Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samveda and Atharvaveda.**

### 1. Yajurveda

The following verses from the Yajurveda echo a similar concept of God:

1. "na tasya pratima asti"  
"There is no image of Him."  
[Yajurveda 32:3]<sup>5</sup>

2. "shudhama poapvidham"  
"He is bodyless and pure."  
[Yajurveda 40:8]<sup>6</sup>

3. "Andhatama pravishanti ye asambhuti mupaste"  
"They enter darkness, those who worship the natural elements" (Air, Water, Fire, etc.). "They sink deeper in darkness, those who worship sambhuti."  
[Yajurveda 40:9]<sup>7</sup>

4. Sambhuti means created things, for example table, chair, idol, etc.

The Yajurveda contains the following prayer:  
"Lead us to the good path and remove the sin that makes us stray and wander."  
[Yajurveda 40:16]<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>[Yajurveda by Devi Chand M.A. page 377]

<sup>6</sup>[Yajurveda Samhita by Ralph T. H. Giffith page 538]

<sup>7</sup>[Yajurveda Samhita by Ralph T. H. Giffith page 538]

<sup>8</sup>[Yajurveda Samhita by Ralph T. H. Griffith page 541]

## 2. Atharvaveda

The Atharvaveda praises God in Book 20, hymn 58 and verse 3:

1. "Dev maha osi"  
"God is verily great"  
[Atharvaveda 20:58:3]<sup>9</sup>

## 3. Rigveda

1. The oldest of all the vedas is Rigveda. It is also the one considered most sacred by the Hindus.

The Rigveda states in Book 1, hymn 164 and verse 46: "Sages (learned Priests) call one God by many names."

[Rigveda 1:164:46]

2. The Rigveda gives several different attributes to Almighty God. Many of these are mentioned [in Rigveda Book 2 hymn 1](#).

Among the various attributes of God, one of the beautiful attributes mentioned in the [Rigveda Book II hymn 1 verse 3](#), is Brahma. Brahma means 'The Creator'. Translated into Arabic it means Khaaliq. Muslims can have no objection if Almighty God is referred to as Khaaliq or 'Creator' or Brahma. However if it is said that Brahma is Almighty God who has four heads with each head having a crown, Muslims take strong exception to it.

Describing Almighty God in anthropomorphic terms also goes against the following verse of [Yajurveda](#):

"Na tasya Pratima asti"  
"There is no image of Him."  
[Yajurveda 32:3]

Another beautiful attribute of God mentioned in the Rigveda Book II hymn 1 verse 3 is Vishnu. Vishnu means 'The Sustainer'. Translated into Arabic it means Rabb. Again, Muslims can have no objection if Almighty God is referred to as Rabb or 'Sustainer' or Vishnu.

But the popular image of 9[Atharveda Samhita vol 2 William Dwight Whitney page 910]

Vishnu among Hindus, is that of a God who has four arms, with one of the right arms holding the Chakra, i.e. a discus and one of the left arms holding a 'conch shell', or riding a bird or reclining on a snake couch.

Muslims can never accept any image of God. As mentioned earlier this also goes against Svetasvatara Upanishad Chapter 4 verse 19.

"Na tasya pratima asti"

"There is no likeness of Him"

The following verse from the Rigveda Book 8, hymn 1, verse 1 refer to the Unity and Glory of the Supreme Being:

4. "Ma cid anyad vi sansata sakhayo ma rishanyata"

"O friends, do not worship anybody but Him, the Divine One. Praise Him alone."

[Rigveda 8:1:1]10

4. "Devasya samituk parishtutih"

"Verily, great is the glory of the Divine Creator."

[Rigveda 5:1:81]11

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10[Rigveda Samhita vol. 9, pages 2810 and 2811 by Swami Satya Prakash Saraswati and Satyakam Vidyalankar]

11[Rigveda Samhita vol. 6, pages 1802 and 1803 by Swami Satya Prakash Saraswati and Satyakam Vidyalankar]

**Brahma Sutra of Hinduism:**  
The Brahma Sutra of Hinduism is:

"Ekam Brahm, dvitiya naste neh na naste kinchan"

"There is only one God, not the second; not at all, not at all, not in the least bit."

Thus only a dispassionate study of the Hindu scriptures can help one understand the concept of God in Hinduism.

as from the sun." The Prophecy confirms:

1. The name of the Prophet as Ahmed since Ahmed is an Arabic name. Many translators misunderstood it to be 'Ahm at hi' and translated the mantra as "I alone have acquired the real wisdom of my father".
2. Prophet was given eternal law, i.e. the Shariah.
3. The Rishi was enlightened by the Shariah of Prophet Muhammad.

The Qur'an says in Surah Saba Chapter 34 verse 28 (34:28):

"We have not sent thee but as a universal (Messenger) to men, giving them glad tidings and warning them (against sin), but most men understand not."

# Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in Hindu scripture

## I. Muhammad (pbuh) prophesised in Bhavishya Purana

According to Bhavishya Purana in the Prati Sarag Parv III Khand 3 Adhay 3 Shloka 5 to 8.

"A malecha (belonging to a foreign country and speaking a foreign language) spiritual teacher will appear with his companions. His name will be Mohammad. Raja (Bhoj) after giving this Maha Dev Arab (of angelic disposition) a bath in the Panchgavya and the Ganga water (i.e. purifying him of all sins) offered him the present of his sincere devotion and showing him all reverence said, "I make obeisance to thee. O ye! The pride of mankind, the dweller in Arabia, Ye have collected a great force to kill the Devil and you yourself have been protected from the malecha opponents."

### The Prophecy clearly states:

#### The Name of the Prophet as Mohammad.

He will belong to Arabia. The Sanskrit word Marusthal means a sandy track of land or a desert. Special mention is made of the companions of the Prophet, i.e. the Sahabas. No other Prophet had as many companions as Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). He is referred as the pride of mankind (Parbatis nath).

The Glorious Qur'an reconfirms this "And thou (standest) on an exalted standard of character

[Al-Qur'an 68:4]

"Ye have indeed in the Messenger of Allah, a beautiful pattern (of conduct)".

[Al-Qur'an 33:21]

He will kill the devil, i.e. abolish idol worship and all sorts of vices.

## The Prophet will be given protection against his enemy.

Some people may argue that 'Raja' Bhoj mentioned in the prophecy lived in the 11th century C.E. 500 years after the advent of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and was the descendant in the 10th generation of Raja Shalivahan. These people fail to realise that there was not only one Raja of the name Bhoj. The Egyptian Monarchs were called as Pharaoh and the Roman Kings were known as Caesar, similarly the Indian Rajas were given the title of Bhoj. There were several Raja Bhoj who came before the one in 11th Century C.E. The Prophet did not physically take a bath in the Panchgavya and the water of Ganges. Since the water of Ganges is considered holy, taking bath in the Ganges is an idiom, which means washing away sins or immunity from all sorts of sins. Here the prophecy implies that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was sinless, i.e. Maasoom.

According to Bhavishya Purana in the Pratisarag Parv III Khand 3 Adhay 3 Shloka 10 to 27 Maharishi Vyas has prophesised:

"The Malecha have spoiled the well-known land of the Arabs. Arya Dharma is not to be found in the country. Before also there appeared a misguided fiend whom I had killed; he has now again appeared being sent by a powerful enemy. To show these enemies the right path and to give them guidance, the well-known Muhammad (pbuh), is busy in bringing the Pishachas to the right path. O Raja, You need not go to the land of the foolish Pishachas, you will be purified through my kindness even where you are. At night, he of the angelic disposition, the shrewd man, in the guise of Pishacha said to Raja Bhoj, "O Raja! Your Arya Dharma has been made to prevail over all religions, but according to the commandments of Ishwar Parmatma, I shall enforce the strong creed of the meat eaters. My followers will be men circumcised, without a tail (on his head), keeping beard, creating a revolution announcing the Aadhaan (the Muslim call for prayer) and will be eating all lawful things. He will eat all sorts of animals except swine. They will not seek purification from the holy shrubs, but will be purified through warfare. On account of their fighting the irreligious nations, they will be known as Musalmaans. I shall be the originator of this religion of the meat-eating nations."

### **The Prophecy states that:**

The evil doers have corrupted the Arab land.

Arya Dharma is not found in that land.

The Indian Raja need not go the Arab land since his purification will take place in India after the musalmaan will arrive in India.

The coming Prophet will attest the truth of the Aryan faith, i.e. Monotheism and will reform the misguided people.

The Prophet's followers will be circumcised. They will be without a tail on the head and bear a beard and will create a great revolution.

They will announce the Aadhaan, i.e. 'the Muslim call for prayer'.

He will only eat lawful things and animals but will not eat pork.

### **The Qur'an confirms this in no less than 4 different places:**

In Surah Al-Baqarah chapter 2 verse 173

In Surah Al-Maidah chapter 5 verse 3

In Surah Al-Anam chapter 6 verse 145

In Surah Al-Nahl chapter 16 verse 115

"Forbidden to you for food are dead meat, blood, flesh of swine, and that on which hath been invoked the name of other than Allah".

They will not purify with grass like the Hindus but by means of sword they will fight their irreligious people.

They will be called musalmaan.

They will be a meat-eating nation.

The eating of herbivorous animals is confirmed by the Qur'an in Surah Maidah, chapter 5 verse 1 and in Surah Muminun chapter 23 verse 21

According to Bhavishya Purana, Parv - III Khand 1 Adhay 3 Shloka 21-23:

"Corruption and persecution are found in seven sacred cities of Kashi, etc. India is inhabited by Rakshas, Shabor, Bhil and other foolish people. In the land of Malechhas, the followers of the Malechha dharma (Islam) are wise and brave people. All good qualities are found in Musalmaans and all sorts of vices have



accumulated in the land of the Aryas. Islam will rule in India and its islands.  
Having known these facts, O Muni, glorify the name of thy lord".

The Qur'an confirms this in Surah Taubah chapter 9 verse 33 and in Surah Al Saff chapter 61 verse 9:

"It is He who hath sent His Messenger with Guidance and the Religion of Truth, to proclaim it over all religion, even though the Pagans may detest (it)".

A similar message is given in Surah Fatah chapter 48 verses 28 ending with, "and enough is Allah as a witness".

## **II. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) Prophesised in Atharvaveda**

In the 20th book of Atharvaveda Hymn 127 Some Suktas (chapters) are known as Kuntap Sukta. Kuntap means the consumer of misery and troubles. Thus meaning the message of peace and safety and if translated in Arabic means Islam.

Kuntap also means hidden glands in the abdomen. These mantras are called so probably because their true meaning was hidden and was to be revealed in future. Its hidden meaning is also connected with the navel or the middle point of this earth. Makkah is called the Ummul Qur'a the mother of the towns or the naval of the earth. In many revealed books it was the first house of Divine worship where God Almighty gave spiritual nourishment to the world.

The Qur'an says in Surah Ali-Imran chapter 3, verse 96:

"The first house (of worship) appointed for men was that at Bakkah (Makkah) full of blessings and of guidance and for all kinds of beings". Thus Kuntap stands for Makkah or Bakkah.

Several people have translated these Kuntap Suktas like M. Bloomfield, Prof. Ralph Griffith, Pandit Rajaram, Pandit Khem Karan, etc.

The main points mentioned in the Kuntap Suktas i.e. in Atharvaveda book 20 Hymn 127 verses 1-13 are:

### Mantra 1

He is Narashansah or the praised one (Muhammad). He is Kaurama: the prince of peace or the emigrant, who is safe, even amongst a host of 60,090 enemies.

### Mantra 2

He is a camel-riding Rishi, whose chariot touches the heaven.

### Mantra 3

He is Mamah Rishi who is given a hundred gold coins, ten chaplets (necklaces), three hundred good steeds and ten thousand cows.

### Mantra 4

Vachyesv rebh. 'Oh! ye who glorifies'.

The Sanskrit word Narashansah means 'the praised one', which is the literal translation of the Arabic word Muhammad (pbuh).

The Sanskrit word Kaurama means 'one who spreads and promotes peace'. The holy Prophet was the 'Prince of Peace' and he preached equality of human kind and universal brotherhood. Kaurama also means an emigrant. The Prophet migrated from Makkah to Madinah and was thus also an Emigrant.

He will be protected from 60,090 enemies, which was the population of Makkah. The Prophet would ride a camel. This clearly indicates that it cannot be an Indian Rishi, since it is forbidden for a Brahman to ride a camel according to the Sacred Books of the East, volume 25, Laws of Manu pg. 472. According to Manu Smirti chapter 11 verse 202, "A Brahman is prohibited from riding a camel or an ass and to bathe naked. He should purify himself by suppressing his breath".

This mantra gave the Rishi's name as Mamah. No rishi in India or another Prophet had this name Mamah which is derived from Mah which means to esteem highly, or to revere, to exalt, etc. Some Sanskrit books give the Prophet's name as 'Mohammad', but this word according to Sanskrit grammar can also be used in the bad sense. It is incorrect to apply grammar to an Arabic word. Actually shas the same meaning and somewhat similar pronunciation as the word Muhammad(pbuh).

He is given 100 gold coins, which refers to the believers and the earlier companions of the Prophet during his turbulent Makkan life. Later on due to persecution they migrated from Makkah to Abyssinia. Later when Prophet migrated to Madinah all of them joined him in Madinah.

The 10 chaplets or necklaces were the 10 best companions of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) known as Ashra-Mubbashshira (10 bestowed with good news). These were foretold in this world of their salvation in the hereafter i.e. they were given the good news of entering paradise by the Prophet's own lips and after naming each one he said "in Paradise". They were Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Ali, Talha, Zubair, Abdur Rahman Ibn Auf, Saad bin Abi Waqqas, Saad bin Zaid and Abu Ubaidah (May Allah be well-pleased with all of them).

The Sanskrit word Go is derived from Gaw which means 'to go to war'. A cow is also called Go and is a symbol of war as well as peace. The 10,000 cows refer to the 10,000 companions who accompanied the Prophet (pbuh) when he entered Makkah during Fateh Makkah which was a unique victory in the history of mankind in which there was no blood shed. The 10,000 companions were pious and compassionate like cows and were at the same time strong and fierce and are described in the Holy Quran in Surah Fatah:

"Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah; and those who are with him are strong against unbelievers, (but) compassionate amongst each other.

[Al-Qur'an 48:29]

This mantra calls the Prophet as Rebh which means one who praises, which when translated into Arabic is Ahmed, which is another name for the Holy Prophet (pbuh).

## **Battle of the Allies described in the Vedas.**

It is mentioned in Atharvaveda Book XX Hymn 21 verse 6,

"Lord of the truthful! These liberators drink these feats of bravery and the inspiring songs gladdened thee in the field of battle. When thou renders vanquished without fight the ten thousand opponents of the praying one, the adoring one."

This Prophecy of the Veda describes the well-known battle of Ahzab or the battle of the Allies during the time of Prophet Muhammed. The Prophet was victorious without an actual conflict [which is mentioned in the Qur'an in Surah Ahzab:](#)

"When the believers saw the confederate forces they said, "This is what Allah and His Messenger had promised us and Allah and His Messenger told us what was true." And it only added to their faith and their zeal in obedience."

[Al-Qur'an 33:22]

The Sanskrit word **karo** in the Mantra means the 'praying one' which when translated into Arabic means 'Ahmed', the second name of Prophet Muhammed (pbuh).

The 10,000 opponents mentioned in the Mantra were the enemies of the Prophet and the Muslims were only 3000 in number.

The last words of the Mantra *apрати ni bashayah* means [the defeat was given to the enemies without an actual fight.](#)

[The enemies' defeat in the conquest of Makkah is mentioned in Atharvaveda book 20 Hymn 21 verse no 9:](#)

"You have O Indra, overthrown 20 kings and 60,099 men with an outstripping Chariot wheel who came to fight the praised one or far famed (Muhammad) orphan."

The population of Makkah at the time of Prophet's advent was nearly 60,000 There were several clans in Makkah each having its own chief. Totally there were about 20 chiefs to rule the population of Makkah.

An Abandhu meaning a helpless man who was far-famed and 'praised one'.  
Muhammad (pbuh) overcame his enemies with the help of God.

### **III. Muhammad (pbuh) prophesised in the Rigveda**

A similar prophecy is also found in Rigveda Book I, Hymn 53 verse 9:

The Sanskrit word used is Sushrama, which means praiseworthy or well praised  
which in Arabic means Muhammad (pbuh).

### **IV. Muhummad (pbuh) is also prophesised in the Samveda**

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is also prophesised in the Samveda Book II Hymn 6  
verse 8:

"Ahmed acquired from his Lord the knowledge of eternal law. I received light  
from him just as from the sun."

**The Prophecy confirms:**

The name of the Prophet as Ahmed since Ahmed is an Arabic name. Many  
translators misunderstood it to be Ahm at hi and translated the mantra as "I alone  
have acquired the real wisdom of my father".

Prophet was given eternal law, i.e. the Shariah.

The Rishi was enlightened by the Shariah of Prophet Muhammad.

The Qur'an says in Surah Saba chapter 34 verse 28

"We have not sent thee but as a universal (Messenger) to men, giving them glad  
tidings and warning them (against sin), but most men understand not."

[Al-Qur'an 34:28]

# **BUDDHIST SCRIPTURES**

Historical criticism has proved that the original teachings of Buddha can never be known. It seems that Gautama Buddha's teachings were memorized by his disciples. After Buddha's death a council was held at Rajagaha so that the words of Buddha could be recited and agreed upon. There were differences of opinion and conflicting memories in the council. Opinion of Kayshapa and Ananda who were prominent disciples of Buddha were given preference. A hundred years later, a second council at Vesali was held. Only after 400 years, after the death of Buddha were his teachings and doctrines written down. Little attention was paid regarding its authenticity, genuineness and purity.

**Buddhist Scriptures can be divided into Pali and Sanskrit Literature:**

## **A. Pali Literature:**

The Pali literature was monopolized by the Hinayana sect of Buddhism.

### **Tri Pitaka**

The most important of all Buddhist scriptures is the *TRI-PITAKA* which is in Pali text. It is supposed to be the earliest recorded Buddhist literature which was written in the 1st Century B.C.

The TRI-PITAKA or Three Baskets of law is composed of 3 books:

#### **1. Vinaya Pitaka: 'Rules of Conduct'**

This is a book of discipline and mainly deals with rules of the order.

#### **2. Sutta Pitaka: 'Discourses'**

It is a collection of sermons and discourses of Gautama Buddha and the incidents in his life. It is the most important Pitaka and consists of five divisions known as Nikayas. Dhammapada is the most famous Pali literature and contains aphorisms and short statements covering the truth.

### **3. Abhidhamma: 'Analysis of Doctrine'**

This third basket contains meta physical doctrines and is known as Buddhist meta physicals. It is an analytical and logical elaboration of the first two pitakas. It contains analysis and exposition of Buddhist doctrine.

#### **B. Sanskrit Literature:**

Sanskrit literature was preferred by the Mahayana. Sanskrit literature has not been reduced to a collection or in Cannon like the Pali literature. Thus much of the original Sanskrit literature has been lost. Some were translated into other languages like Chinese and are now being re-translated into Sanskrit.

#### **1. Maha vastu: 'Sublime Story'**

Mahavastu is the most famous work in Sanskrit which has been restored from its Chinese translation. It consists of voluminous collection of legendary stories.

#### **2.Lalitavistara**

Lalitavistara is one of the holiest of the Sanskrit literature. It belongs to the first century C.E., 500 years after the death of Buddha. It contains the miracles which the superstition loving people have attributed to Buddha.

## **II. TEACHINGS OF BUDDHA:**

### **A. Noble Truths:**

The principal teachings of Gautama Buddha can be summarised in what the Buddhists call the 'Four Noble Truths':

First – There is suffering and misery in life .

Second – The cause of this suffering and misery is desire.

Third – Suffering and misery can be removed by removing desire.

Fourth – Desire can be removed by following the Eight Fold Path.

## **B. The Noble Eight Fold Path:**

- (i) Right Views
- (ii) Right Thoughts
- (iii) Right Speech
- (iv) Right Actions
- (v) Right Livelihood
- (vi) Right Efforts
- (vii) Right Mindfulness
- (viii) Right Meditation

## **C. Nirvana:**

Nirvana' literally means "blowing out" or "extinction". According to Buddhism, this is the ultimate goal of life and can be described in various words. It is a cessation of all sorrows, which can be achieved by removing desire by following the Eight Fold Path

## **III. PHILOSOPHY OF BUDDHISM IS SELF – CONTRADICTIONARY:**

As mentioned earlier, the main teachings of Buddhism are summarised in the Four Noble Truths:

- (i) There is suffering and misery in life.
- (ii) The cause of suffering and misery is desire.
- (iii) Suffering and misery can be removed by removing desire.
- (iv) Desire can be removed by following the Eight Fold Path.



**This Philosophy of Buddhism is self-contradictory or self-defeating** because the third truth says 'suffering and misery can be removed by removing desire' and the fourth truth says that 'desire can be removed by following the Eight Fold Path'. Now, for any person to follow Buddhism he should first have the desire to follow the Four Noble Truths and the Eight Fold Path. The Third great Noble Truth says that desire should be removed. Once you remove desire, how can we follow the Fourth Noble truth i.e. follow the Eight Fold Path unless we have a desire to follow the Eight Fold Path. In short desire can only be removed by having a desire to follow the Eight Fold Path. If you do not follow the Eight Fold Path, desire cannot be removed. It is self contradicting as well as self-defeating to say that desire will only be removed by continuously having a desire.

## **CONCEPT OF GOD**

Buddha was silent about the existence or non-existence of God. It may be that since India was drowned in idol worship and anthropomorphism that a sudden step to monotheism would have been drastic and hence Buddha may have chosen to remain silent on the issue of God. He did not deny the existence of God. Buddha was once asked by a disciple whether God exists? He refused to reply. When pressed, he said that if you are suffering from a stomach ache would you concentrate on relieving the pain or studying the prescription of the physician. "It is not my business or yours to find out whether there is God – our business is to remove the sufferings of the world".

Buddhism provided Dhamma or the 'impersonal law' in place of God. However this could not satisfy the craving of human beings and the religion of self-help had to be converted into a religion of promise and hope. The Hinayana sect could not hold out any promise of external help to the people. The Mahayana sect taught that Buddha's watchful and compassionate eyes are on all miserable beings, thus making a God out of Buddha. Many scholars consider the evolution of God within Buddhism as an effect of Hinduism.

Many Buddhists adopted the local god and thus the religion of 'No-God' was transformed into the religion of 'Many-Gods' – big and small, strong and weak and male and female. The 'Man-God' appears on earth in human form and incarnates

from time to time. Buddha was against the caste-system prevalent in the Hindu society.

## **MUHAMMAD (PBUH) IN BUDDHIST SCRIPTURES**

### **1. Buddha prophesised the advent of a Maitreya:**

#### **A) Almost all Buddhist books contain this prophecy. It is in Chakkavatti Sinhna Suttanta D. III, 76:**

"There will arise in the world a Buddha named Maitreya (the benevolent one) a holy one, a supreme one, an enlightened one, endowed with wisdom in conduct, auspicious, knowing the universe:

"What he has realized by his own supernatural knowledge he will publish to this universe. He will preach his religion, glorious in its origin, glorious at its climax, glorious at the goal, in the spirit and the letter. He will proclaim a religious life, wholly perfect and thoroughly pure; even as I now preach my religion and a like life do proclaim. He will keep up the society of monks numbering many thousands, even as now I keep up a society of monks numbering many hundreds".

#### **B) According to Sacred Books of the East volume 35 pg. 225:**

"It is said that I am not an only Buddha upon whom the leadership and order is dependent. After me another Buddha maitreya of such and such virtues will come. I am now the leader of hundreds, he will be the leader of thousands."

#### **C) According to the Gospel of Buddha by Carus pg. 217 and 218 (From Ceylon sources):**

#### **"Ananda said to the Blessed One, 'Who shall teach us when thou art gone?'**

And the Blessed one replied, 'I am not the first Buddha who came upon the earth nor shall I be the last. In due time another Buddha will arise in the world, a holy one, a supremely enlightened one, endowed with wisdom in conduct, auspicious, knowing the universe, an incomparable leader of men, a master of angels and mortals. He will reveal to you the same eternal truths, which I have taught you. He will preach his religion, glorious in its origin, glorious at the climax and glorious at the goal. He will proclaim a religious life, wholly perfect

and pure such as I now proclaim. His disciples will number many thousands while mine number many hundreds.'

**Ananda said, 'How shall we know him?'**

**The Blessed one replied, 'He will be known as Maitreya'."**

(i) The Sanskrit word 'Maitreya' or its equivalent in Pali 'Metteyya' means loving, compassionate, merciful and benevolent. It also means kindness and friendliness, sympathy, etc. One Arabic word which is equivalent to all these words is 'Rahmat'.

In Surah Al-Anbiya:

**"We sent thee not, but as a mercy for all creatures."**

[Al-Qur'an 21:107]

**Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was called the merciful, which is 'Maitri'.**

(ii) The words Mercy and Merciful are mentioned in the Holy Qur'an no less than 409 times.

(iii) Every chapter of the Glorious Qur'an, except Chapter 9, i.e. Surah Taubah begins with the beautiful formula, 'Bismillah Hir-Rahman Nir-Rahim', which means 'In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful'.

(iv) The Word Muhammad is also spelt as 'Mahamet' or 'Mahomet' and in various other ways in different languages. The word 'Maho' or 'Maha' in Pali and Sanskrit mean Great and Illustrious and 'Metta' means mercy. Therefore 'Mahomet' means 'Great Mercy'.

## **2. Buddha's doctrine was Esoteric and Exoteric:**

**According to Sacred Books of the East, volume 11, pg. 36 Maha-Parinibbana Sutta chapter 2 verse 32:**

"I have preached the truth without making any distinction between exoteric and esoteric doctrine, for in respect of truths, Ananda, the Tathagata has no such thing as the closed fist of a teacher, who keeps something back".

Muhammad (pbuh) on the commandment of Almighty God delivered the message and doctrine without making any distinction between esoteric and exoteric. The Qur'an was recited in public in the days of the Prophet and is being done so till date. The Prophet had strictly forbidden the Muslims from hiding the doctrine

### 3. Devoted Servitors of the Buddhas:

According to Sacred Books of the East volume 11 pg. 97 Maha-Parinibbana Sutta Chapter 5 verse 36:

"Then the Blessed one addressed the brethren, and said, 'Whosoever, brethren have been Arahāt-Buddhas through the long ages of the past, they were servitors just as devoted to those Blessed ones as Ananda has been to me. And whosoever brethren shall be the Arahāt-Buddhas of the future, there shall be servitors as devoted to those Blessed ones as Ananda has been to me'."

The Servitor of Buddha was Ananda. Muhammad (pbuh) also had a servitor by the name Anas (r.a.) who was the son of Malik. Anas (r.a...) was presented to the Prophet by his parents. Anas (r.a...) relates: "My mother said to him, 'Oh Messenger of God, here is your little servant'." Further Anas relates, "I served him from the time I was 8 years old and the Prophet called me his son and his little beloved". Anas (r.a...) stayed by the Prophet in peace and in war, in safety as well as in danger till the end of his life.

i) Anas (r.a.), even though he was only 11 years old stayed beside the Prophet during the battle of Uhud where the Prophet's life was in great danger.

ii) Even during the battle of Honain when the Prophet was surrounded by the enemies who were archers, Anas (r.a...) who was only 16 years old stood by the Prophet.

Anas (R) can surely be compared with Ananda who stood by Gautam Buddha when the mad elephant approached him.

#### **4. Six Criteria for Identifying Buddha:**

##### **According to the Gospel of Buddha by Carus pg. 214:**

"The Blessed one said, 'There are two occasions on which a Tathagata's appearance becomes clear and exceedingly bright. In the night Ananda, in which a Tathagata attains to the supreme and perfect insight, and in the night in which he passes finally away in that ultra passing which leaves nothing whatever of his earthly existence to remain.' "

##### **According to Gautam Buddha, following are the six criteria for identifying a Buddha.**

- i) A Buddha attains supreme and perfect insight at night-time.
- ii) On the occasion of his complete enlightenment he looks exceedingly bright
- iii) A Buddha dies a natural death.
- iv) He dies at night-time.
- v) He looks exceedingly bright before his death.
- vi) After his death a Buddha ceases to exist on earth.

**i) Muhammad (pbuh) attained supreme insight and Prophethood at night-time.**

##### **According to Surah Dukhan:**

**"By the books that makes thing clear – We sent it down during a blessed night."**

[Al-Qur'an 44:2-3]

##### **According to Surah Al-Qadar:**

**"We have indeed revealed this (message) in the night of power."**

[Al-Qur'an 97:1]

- ii) Muhammad (pbuh) instantly felt his understanding illumined with celestial light.
- iii) Muhammad (pbuh) died a natural death.
- iv) According to Ayesha (r.a.), Muhammad (pbuh) expired at night-time. When he was dying there was no oil in the lamp and his wife Ayesha (r.a.) had to borrow oil for the lamp.
- v) According to Anas (r.a.), Muhammad (pbuh) looked exceedingly bright in the night of his death.
- vi) After the burial of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) he was never seen again in his bodily form on this earth.

## **5. Buddhas are only Preachers:**

**According to Dhammapada, Sacred Books of East volume 10 pg., 67:**

"The Jathagatas (Buddhas) are only Preachers."

**The Qur'an says in Surah Ghashiya:**

"Therefore do thou give admonition, for thou art one to admonish. Thou art not one to manage (men's) affairs."

[Al-Qur'an 88:21-22]

## **6. Identification of Maitreya by Buddha:**

**According to Dhammapada, Mattaya Sutta, 151:**

**"The promised one will be:**

- i) Compassionate for the whole creation
- ii) A messenger of peace, a peace-maker

iii) The most successful in the world.

**The Maitreya as a Preacher of morals will be:**

- i) Truthful
- ii) Self-respecting
- iii) Gentle and noble
- iv) Not proud
- v) As a king to creatures
- vi) An example to others in deeds and in words".

**SIKHISM**

**INTRODUCTION**

Sikhism is a non-Semitic, Aryan, non-Vedic religion. It is a religion that has the sixth largest following in the world. Some consider it as an offshoot of Hinduism. It was founded by Guru Nanak at the end of the 15th century. It originated in the area of Pakistan and North West India called Punjab, meaning the land of the five rivers. Guru Nanak was born in a Kshatriya (warrior caste) Hindu family but was very strongly influenced by Islam and Muslims.

**DEFINITION OF SIKH AND SIKHISM**

The word 'Sikh' is derived from the word sisya meaning disciple or follower. Sikhism is a religion of ten Gurus, the first Guru being Guru Nanak and the tenth and the last being Guru Gobind Singh. The sacred book of Sikhism is Sri Guru Granth also called Adi Granth Sahib.

## **THE FIVE – ‘K’s**

Every Sikh is supposed to keep the following five ‘K’s, which also serve to identify him as a Sikh:

**Kesh** – uncut hair.

**Kanga** – comb; used to keep the hair clean.

**Kada** – metal or steel bangle; for strength and self-restraint.

**Kirpan** – dagger; for self-defence.

**Kaccha** – special knee length underwear or under-drawer for agility.

## **CONCEPT OF GOD IN SIKHISM**

### **MULMANTRA: THE FUNDAMENTAL CREED OF SIKHISM**

The best definition that any Sikh can give regarding the concept of God in Sikhism is to quote the Mulmantra – the fundamental creed of Sikhism, which occurs at the beginning of Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

*It is mentioned in Sri Guru Granth Sahib, volume 1 Japuji, the first verse:*

*"There exists but one God, who is called The True, The Creator, Free from fear and hate, Immortal, Not begotten, Self-Existent, Great and Compassionate."*

### **Sikhism is a monotheistic Religion**

Sikhism enjoins its followers to practise strict monotheism. It believes in only One Supreme God who is, in the unmanifest form, called Ek Omkara.

In the manifest form He is called Omkara and has several attributes such as:

Kartar – The Creator

Akal – The Eternal

Sattanama – The Holy Name



Sahib – The Lord  
Parvardigar – The Cherisher  
Rahim – The Merciful  
Karim – The Benevolent

**He is also called Wahe Guru – the One true God.**

Besides Sikhism being strictly monotheistic, it also does not believe in Avataravada – the doctrine of incarnation. Almighty God does not incarnate Himself in what is known as Avatara. Sikhism is also strongly against idol worship.

Guru Nanak was influenced by Sant Kabir

Guru Nanak was influenced by the sayings of Sant Kabir so much that several chapters of Sri Guru Granth Sahib contain couplets of Sant Kabir.

**One of the famous couplets of Sant Kabir is:**

"Dukh mein sumirana sabh karein  
Sukh mein karein na koya  
Jo sukh mein sumirana karein  
To dukh kaye hoye?"

"In times of trouble, God is remembered by all  
But none remembers Him during peace and happiness.  
If God is remembered in good times of happiness  
Why should trouble occur?"

**Compare this with the following verse of the Qur'an:**

"When some trouble toucheth man,  
He crieth unto his Lord,  
Turning to Him in repentance:  
But when He bestoweth

A favour upon him  
As from Himself,  
(Man) doth forget what he cried  
And prayed for before,  
And he doth set up  
Rivals unto Allah."  
[Al-Qur'an 39:8]

The Sikh scriptures therefore emphasise monotheism and God-consciousness

## **PROVING THE EXISTENCE OF ALLAH (SWT) TO AN ATHEIST**

### **CONGRATULATING AN ATHEIST**

Normally, when I meet an atheist, the first thing I like to do is to congratulate him and say, " My special congratulations to you", because most of the people who believe in God are doing blind belief - he is a Christian, because his father is a Christian; he is a Hindu, because his father is a Hindu; the majority of the people in the world are blindly following the religion of their fathers. An atheist, on the other hand, even though he may belong to a religious family, uses his intellect to deny the existence of God; what ever concept or qualities of God he may have learnt in his religion may not seem to be logical to him.

My Muslim brothers may question me, "Zakir, why are you congratulating an atheist?" The reason that I am congratulating an atheist is because he agrees with the first part of the Shahada i.e. the Islamic Creed, 'La ilaaha' - meaning 'there is no God'.

So half my job is already done; now the only part left is 'il lallah' i.e. 'BUT ALLAH' which I shall do **In sha Allah**. With others (who are not atheists) I have to first remove from their minds the wrong concept of God they may have and then put the correct concept of one true God.

## LOGICAL CONCEPT OF GOD

**My first question to the atheist will be:** "What is the definition of God?" For a person to say there is no God, he should know what is the meaning of God. If I hold a book and say that 'this is a pen', for the opposite person to say, 'it is not a pen', he should know what is the definition of a pen, even if he does not know nor is able to recognise or identify the object I am holding in my hand. For him to say this is not a pen, he should at least know what a pen means. Similarly for an atheist to say 'there is no God', he should at least know the concept of God. His concept of God would be derived from the surroundings in which he lives. The god that a large number of people worship has got human qualities - therefore he does not believe in such a god. Similarly a Muslim too does not and should not believe in such false gods.

If a non-Muslim believes that Islam is a merciless religion with something to do with terrorism; a religion which does not give rights to women; a religion which contradicts science; in his limited sense that non-Muslim is correct to reject such Islam. **The problem is he has a wrong picture of Islam.** Even I reject such a false picture of Islam, but at the same time, it becomes my duty as a Muslim to present the correct picture of Islam to that non-Muslim i.e. Islam is a merciful religion, it gives equal rights to the women, it is not incompatible with logic, reason and science; if I present the correct facts about Islam, that non-Muslim may Inshallah accept Islam.

Similarly the atheist rejects the false gods and the duty of every Muslim is to present the correct concept of God which he shall Insha Allah not refuse.

(You may refer to my article, 'Concept of God in Islam', for more details

## **QUR'AN AND MODERN SCIENCE**

The methods of proving the existence of God with usage of the material provided in the 'Concept of God in Islam' to an atheist may satisfy some but not all.

Many atheists demand a scientific proof for the existence of God. I agree that today is the age of science and technology. Let us use scientific knowledge to kill two birds with one stone, i.e. to prove the existence of God and simultaneously prove that the Qur'an is a revelation of God.

If a new object or a machine, which no one in the world has ever seen or heard of before, is shown to an atheist or any person and then a question is asked, " Who is the first person who will be able to provide details of the mechanism of this unknown object? After little bit of thinking, he will reply, 'the creator of that object.' Some may say 'the producer' while others may say 'the manufacturer.' What ever answer the person gives, keep it in your mind, the answer will always be either the creator, the producer, the manufacturer or some what of the same meaning, i.e. the person who has made it or created it. Don't grapple with words, whatever answer he gives, the meaning will be same, therefore accept it.

SCIENTIFIC FACTS MENTIONED IN THE QUR'AN: for details on this subject please refer to my book, 'THE QUR'AN AND MODERN SCIENCE – COMPATIBLE OR INCOMPATIBLE?

## **THEORY OF PROBABILITY**

In mathematics there is a theory known as 'Theory of Probability'. If you have two options, out of which one is right, and one is wrong, the chances that you will chose the right one is half, i.e. one out of the two will be correct. You have 50% chances of being correct. Similarly if you toss a coin the chances that your guess will be correct is 50% (1 out of 2) i.e.  $1/2$ . If you toss a coin the second time, the chances that you will be correct in the second toss is again 50% i.e. half. But the chances that you will be correct in both the tosses is half multiplied by half ( $1/2 \times 1/2$ ) which is equal to  $1/4$  i.e. 50% of 50% which is equal to 25%. If you toss a coin the third time, chances that you will be correct all three times is ( $1/2 \times 1/2 \times$

1/2) that is 1/8 or 50% of 50% of 50% that is 12½%.

A dice has got six sides. If you throw a dice and guess any number between 1 to 6, the chances that your guess will be correct is 1/6. If you throw the dice the second time, the chances that your guess will be correct in both the throws is  $(1/6 \times 1/6)$  which is equal to 1/36. If you throw the dice the third time, the chances that all your three guesses are correct is  $(1/6 \times 1/6 \times 1/6)$  is equal to 1/216 that is less than 0.5 %.

Let us apply this theory of probability to the Qur'an, and assume that a person has guessed all the information that is mentioned in the Qur'an which was unknown at that time. Let us discuss the probability of all the guesses being simultaneously correct.

At the time when the Qur'an was revealed, people thought the world was flat, there are several other options for the shape of the earth. It could be triangular, it could be quadrangular, pentagonal, hexagonal, heptagonal, octagonal, spherical, etc. Lets assume there are about 30 different options for the shape of the earth. The Qur'an rightly says it is spherical, if it was a guess the chances of the guess being correct is 1/30.

The light of the moon can be its own light or a reflected light. The Qur'an rightly says it is a reflected light. If it is a guess, the chances that it will be correct is 1/2 and the probability that both the guesses i.e the earth is spherical and the light of the moon is reflected light is  $1/30 \times 1/2 = 1/60$ .

Further, the Qur'an also mentions every living thing is made of water. Every living thing can be made up of either wood, stone, copper, aluminum, steel, silver, gold, oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen, oil, water, cement, concrete, etc. The options are say about 10,000. The Qur'an rightly says that everything is made up of water. If it is a guess, the chances that it will be correct is 1/10,000 and the probability of all the three guesses i.e. the earth is spherical, light of moon is reflected light and everything is created from water being correct is  $1/30 \times 1/2 \times 1/10,000 = 1/60,000$  which is equal to about .0017%.

The Qur'an speaks about hundreds of things that were not known to men at the time of its revelation. Only in three options the result is .0017%. I leave it upto you, to work out the probability if all the hundreds of the unknown facts were guesses, the chances of all of them being correct guesses simultaneously and there being not a single wrong guess. It is beyond human capacity to make all correct

guesses without a single mistake, which itself is sufficient to prove to a logical person that the origin of the Qur'an is Divine.

### **CREATOR IS THE AUTHOR OF THE QUR'AN**

The only logical answer to the question as to who could have mentioned all these scientific facts 1400 years ago before they were discovered, is exactly the same answer initially given by the atheist or any person, to the question who will be the first person who will be able to tell the mechanism of the unknown object. It is the 'CREATOR', the producer, the Manufacturer of the whole universe and its contents. In the English language He is 'God', or more appropriate in the Arabic language, 'ALLAH'.

### **QUR'AN IS A BOOK OF SIGNS AND NOT SCIENCE**

Let me remind you that the Qur'an is not a book of Science, 'S-C-I-E-N-C-E' but a book of Signs 'S-I-G-N-S' i.e. a book of ayaats. The Qur'an contains more than 6,000 ayaats, i.e. 'signs', out of which more than a thousand speak about Science. I am not trying to prove that the Qur'an is the word of God using scientific knowledge as a yardstick because any yardstick is supposed to be more superior than what is being checked or verified. For us Muslims the Qur'an is the Furqan i.e. criteria to judge right from wrong and the ultimate yardstick which is more superior to scientific knowledge.

But for an educated man who is an atheist, scientific knowledge is the ultimate test which he believes in. We do know that science many a times takes 'U' turns, therefore I have restricted the examples only to scientific facts which have sufficient proof and evidence and not scientific theories based on assumptions. Using the ultimate yardstick of the atheist, I am trying to prove to him that the Qur'an is the word of God and it contains the scientific knowledge which is his yardstick which was discovered recently, while the Qur'an was revealed 1400 year ago. At the end of the discussion, we both come to the same conclusion that God though superior to science, is not incompatible with it.

## **SCIENCE IS ELIMINATING MODELS OF GOD BUT NOT GOD**

Francis Bacon, the famous philosopher, has rightly said that a little knowledge of science makes man an atheist, but an in-depth study of science makes him a believer in God. Scientists today are eliminating models of God, but they are not eliminating God. If you translate this into Arabic, it is **La illaha illal la**, There is no god, (god with a small 'g' that is fake god) but God (with a capital 'G').

### **THE ALLAAH SAYS IN THE GLORIOUS QURAAAN IN**

#### **Surah Fussilat:**

"Soon We will show them our signs in the (farthest) regions (of the earth), and in their own souls, until it becomes **manifest to them** that this is the **Truth**. Is it not enough that thy Lord doth witness all things?"

[Al-Quran 41:53]

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